

NEWS NOTES

December 17, 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: Dave Sweeley

8:15am: Joel Baughman

11:00am: Wayne and Carla Beavers,
Caroline Koethke

Altar Guild

Mel and Carol Penrod

Paul and Pam Wittenberg

Readers

4:00pm: Chris Jenkins

8:15am: Teresa Orahod

11:00am: Sheryl Fraley

Ushers

11:00am: Dave Clark, George

Gonsowoski, Dennis Imbrock,
Jeff Shaw

Acolytes

8:15am: Cordelia Wanner

Jaylynn Jermann

11:00am: Eva and Leigh Counts

Greeters

4:00pm: Mary Campbell

8:15am: Carol Penrod

11:00am: MD: Diane Sexton
RD: Linda Diehl

Lessons Today: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8,19-28.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of my parents 71st wedding anniversary. Given Jim Braskett and family.

LECTERN FLOWERS: In remembrance and observance of the 53rd wedding anniversary of Paul and Andrea Offenburger. Given by Andrea Offenburger.

PULPIT FLOWERS: In celebration of Sarah Wittenberg's 24th birthday. Given by the Wittenberg family.

BULLETINS: In honor of my daughter, Sarah Schmitz, and family. Given by Armand Arabian.

BULLETINS: Given by Rhonda Maynard.

☞ PERSONAL NEWS ☞

DEAR MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S: THANK YOU for all of the prayers, cards, calls, and concern during my knee surgery and recuperation. Jeanne and I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. We especially thank Pastor Patti for coming to the hospital to pray and anoint us before surgery, and for visiting us at home. Her prayers and presence brought us strength and comfort. Above all, we thank our God for His healing power and loving compassion and presence during surgery and the days of recuperation. We hope to be back at worship soon. We miss everyone. God bless St. John's as we all serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Blessings, ~ Pastor Tom and Jeanne Phillips.

THANK YOU FROM THE QUILTERS: The 100 Christmas bags were filled and taken to the Grove City Food Pantry at the "Purple Door" Methodist Church on December 5, 2023. We were able to fill the bags in 1½ hours with the gracious help of Linda Ballou, Ginny Bent, David Chenault, Linda Chenault, Vi Davis, Judy Graessle, Charlotte Rausch, Richard Rush, Jane Stenerson, June Stimpfle, Linda Vozel, Dora Yates, and Mary Young. Vi Davis offered a prayer that blessed the children who would receive the bags. We thank you all for your donations of candy, crayons, combs, soft toys, erasers, glue, pens, small notebooks, and many other items. We met our goal of two tables full of candy. We especially thank Linda Vozel for providing most of the material and sewing the kid-friendly bags. The Ohio Department of Wildlife added pencils, pins, book markers, and decals for the children. The Quilters were very appreciative of the donations of toothcare items from Grove City Family Dentistry. We could not have done the bags without the congregation's concern and donations. We hope we added a bit of Christmas love and concern to the bags for the children. Thank you.

NO PLATE LEFT BEHIND! Several dishes, containers, and/or trays have been left in the Family Life Center Kitchen. These items may have been brought in for the Cookie Sale, or OWLS, or a funeral dinner. If you are missing your favorite dish, please check the kitchen before it is too late!

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 43123**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THE BIKE PROJECT! We were able to assemble and deliver 25 bikes and helmets to kids in foster care this past week for the Bike Project! A big thank you to everyone who contributed this year! Thank you to those who helped assemble bikes: Tim Allman Family, Don Allman, Althoff Family, Cress Family, Layla Greer, Stephen and Scott Katterhenrich, Little Family, Paul Patterson, Turner Family, Wahl Family, Lovell Family, Czaplicki Family, Doug Knisley, Davy Clark, Diane Sexton, Shade Family, Wanner Family, and White Family. Special thanks to Diana Imbrock for ordering the bikes and to Butch Myers and Christina and Corban Allman for helping deliver the bikes!

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE – The Accessibility Project has fallen behind. We have been looking forward to the new entrance for Christmas, I know that this is disappointing. Recently there have been issues with some materials and manpower availability. The new anticipated completion is the middle of January. Your patience and understanding is appreciated. Thank you. ~ Dan Yeater.

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS: Sunday, December 17th, we are 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. We hope to deliver to around 50 members/households, so any help is always appreciated.

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.

No morning services or Sunday School on Christmas Eve.

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

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available on the table at the front of the Sanctuary. 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.



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**.

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.

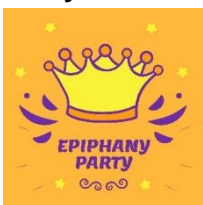
OFFICE HOURS are Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Please keep in mind the building may be locked at any time outside of normal office hours.

☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞

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, January 10th!

Grades K – 6 and families will meet 3:30pm – 6pm on Jan. 6th for an Epiphany Party. This event is brought to you by Davy Clark, Rowan and Findley Lovell, and



Truman Allman. Greeter's Table opens at 3pm. Parental attendance is not required but parents/grandparents are more than welcome to come participate and/or visit with other families. Activities include Nerf battles and/or Epiphany crafts/games. Choose what you'd like to do. Pizza will be served at the end of the event. Nerf guns that are permissible to bring are Rocket, Elite, Dual Pack, and Microshots.

Grades 7 – 12 will also meet on Saturday, Jan. 6th from 6pm – 10pm with an evening of Nerf Extreme, Hide-n-Seek, Dessert Challenge, and Epiphany Hunt! This event is brought to you by Corban Allman, Brayden Gottshall, Brooklyn Cress, and Gini Rogers. Greeter's Table opens at 5:30pm. Pizza will be served at the beginning of the event.

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

Attendance December 10 - 331

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.

☞ CALENDAR ☜

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
 6:00pm Sarah Circle (103-4)
 6:30pm Puppets (FLC)
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:30am Quilters (103-4)
 12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (FLC)
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (off-site)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
 7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
 9:00am Eagle Mailing Team (204)
 9:30am Small Group (101)
 6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)
 8:00pm Dartball (home)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:30am Bulletin Team (Lib)
 8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanc)
6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanc)
8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanc)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00am Christmas Morning Worship
 11:30am Private Event (FLC)
 12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

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.

DAILY AND WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: www.stjohnsgc.org

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