

# NEWS NOTES

Christmas Weekend

December 23 - 25, 2023

## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314 | [www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org) | [secretary@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsgc.org)

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

Associate Pastor Patti Morlock | (740)-405-1548 | [pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org](mailto: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: Ann Jones

#### Reader

4:00pm: Ann Jones

#### Altar Guild

9:00am: Lynda Berry, Dee Harlor

9am and 4pm: Judy Graessle, Linda Vozel

#### Greeters

4:00pm: Mary Campbell

**Lessons Today: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.**

*Volunteers serving on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day  
will be listed on the worship bulletins.*

#### DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

**BULLETINS:** In remembrance of Jim, and in thanks to you God for all of our blessings. Given by Carol Rich.

**BULLETINS:** Given by Ike and Shelah Stage.

## PERSONAL NEWS

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of **Bob Eesley**, who passed away on December 15, 2023. All who grieve are in our hearts and prayers.

## TODAY'S NEWS

**THANK YOU, MIKE ESPOSITO!** Mike Esposito is retiring from his position as St. John's Facilities Manager on December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 FROM THE QUILTERS:** Our quilt sale was a huge success. We made \$688. Thank you for your support to our ministry. Several people bought more than one item. We started out with 34 quilts to sell. We gave six youth quilts to the Bed Brigade and kept four to start our 2024 inventory. In January, we will distribute our funds to various church-related ministries. Again, thank you.

**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!

**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!

**SUCCESSFUL COOKIE SALE** ... We would like to thank all the bakers and buyers of St. John's along with the community who made the Cookie Sale a great success in 2023! We were able to raise \$931.30 for the Kitchen Fund! A special "Thank You" to all who helped with the Cookie Sale! We would like to also thank those who gave a monetary donation. Together we had a wonderful time and thank you all for supporting this ministry.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**

**TOP FIVE REASONS TO BOWL IN THE PRAYERS AND PINS CLUB**

5. Great way to spend a few Sunday afternoons – Beginning January 7 at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl – 3 PM.
4. Good exercise – you don't need to be a good bowler – just ready to have fun.
3. Meet new folks from St John's.
2. Great food and fellowship.

And the **#1** reason: Raise money for the summer Mexico Mission Trip!

**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.

**Grades K – 6 and families will meet 3:30pm – 6pm on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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!

**High School IQA Bible Study starts again on Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 2pm, with a new study on Ephesians.** This is a great time to join!

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES coming up soon in 2024 will be “Blankets of Love” and “Souper Bowl Sunday”.** Sign-ups will be in the confirmation room.

**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.

**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!

## ☪ STEWARDSHIP ☪

**Attendance**      December 17      -      **320**

### 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](http://www.stjohnsgc.org) – online giving is available through Vanco Services, and we have partnered with them for more than 20 years. It is secure and safe.
-  + 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.
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**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.

## ☪ CALENDAR ☪

### 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)*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 9:30am *Quilters (103-4)*  
7:00pm *Boy Scouts (off-site)*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

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

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 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 *Adult Basketball (FLC)*  
6:30pm *Men's Discussion Group (103-4)*

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

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