

NEWS NOTES

December 30-31, 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: *Mike Gibboney*

8:15am: *Ann Jones*

11:00am: *Christine Hank, Bonnie Swanson, Karen Jersild*

Altar Guild

Bill and Linda Diehl

Readers

4:00pm: *Barb Hill*

8:15am: *Pam Wittenberg*

11:00am: *Christine Hank*

Ushers

11:00am: *Bill Diehl, George Gonsowski, Dennis Imbrock, Carl Patzer*

Acolytes

8:15am: *Corban Allman*

11:00am: *Riley Millet*

Wesley Millet

Greeters

4:00pm: *Mary Campbell*

8:15am *MD: Armand Arabian*

RD: Carol Penrod

11:00am *MD: Christine Hank*

RD: Linda Diehl

LESSONS TODAY: Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of our 16th wedding anniversary. Given by Bonnie Swanson.

PULPIT FLOWERS: In honor of the wedding of Tyler Stage and Amanda Koren that took place on December 22nd. Given by Ike and Shelah Stage.

BULLETINS: In honor of all my church family. Given by Armand Arabian.

PERSONAL NEWS

NOTES OF THANKS:

“Dear Family of Faith, thank you so much for the many ways you have shown your love this Christmas Season, through the many cards, gift cards, ornaments, candy, cookies, and other gifts. We are truly blessed to be on the receiving end of such generosity. What a joy to be able to serve you! With much love,” ~ Pastors Patti and Jeff.

“To members of St. John’s Church: Christmas Kindness. Thanks for the poinsettia and gift bag that was delivered by the Clark family on Sunday. Bless you, Sincerely,” ~ Marilyn Wright.

“Dear St. John’s, I appreciate the kindness and holiday gifts brought to me, December 17. I’m not a shut-in at this time – but – yes – I’m an older member. I have given the gift card to a needy family. Thanks for thinking of me and others. Fondly,” ~ Pat Walters.

“Thank you for the gift cards given to our family last year through the Adopt-a-Family program. Thank you very much, and they are appreciated.” ~ Kathy Rodgers and family.

“It all started in December 2002, and it ends in December 2023. It has been a fast 20 years! There have been days when I asked the Lord why he told me to say “yes!” when asked if I would take the position. It took me 5 minutes to think about it and say “yes!” I prayed a lot, had many sleepless nights worrying about problems, but in the end they all worked out. I was very lucky and blessed to have the staff to work with and bounce things off of or just talk things out with them. I was very lucky and blessed to also have a dedicated group of volunteers who would step up to the task when asked to help. Over 20 years, there were lots of great volunteers. St. John’s will always be my church and I will see you at the Saturday night services. Thank you and may God bless you all!” ~ Michael 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

☪ TODAY'S NEWS ☪



THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will follow the 11am services on Sunday, January 28, 2024! Please plan to attend.



OWLS EVENT - JANUARY 19, 2024: The Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) are looking forward to kicking off 2024 with a speaker from Jordan's Crossing, Fred Rieser. Jordan's Crossing? What's that? It ministers to the homeless and addicted on the west side, primarily in the Hilltop areas. Fred was our guest a few years ago and we were very impressed with this organization and their dedication. Here are just a few of their on-site services: Daily Hot Lunch, Daily Sack Lunch, Daily Healthcare Connections to Mt. Carmel and Southeast Mental Health Services plus clothing pantry, food pantry and many more. You will be amazed at the number of clients they help every single day.

The OWLS will provide fried chicken and meat loaf for our potluck lunch, and we ask you bring a covered dish and join your friends for a delicious lunch and a wonderful program. Please plan to arrive around 11:15am so we can open the meeting at 11:30am. Use the salmon sheet in Sunday's bulletin to make your reservation so the group can plan accordingly. You can also call the office or Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002. **Hope to see you there!**

KITCHEN NEEDS: If you'd like to donate some hand towels and washcloths that would very much be appreciated. Over the year, the stock has depleted. If towels have been taken home to launder, please return them as very few are left.

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.

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.



RAISE RIGHT ORDER DEADLINE is this coming Tuesday. Please submit your order by noon on January 2nd.

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!

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 **next Sunday, 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, jodimond@aol.com, 614-270-3291. **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!

EAGLE DEADLINE is a week from **Wednesday**. Please submit your article by noon on **January 10th**.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on **Tuesday, January 23rd** 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.

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.

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.

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.

☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞

Grades K – 6 and families will meet 3:30pm – 6pm this Saturday, 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.

THURSDAYS start again on January 11th! 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. Talk to Laurie Pecuch or Diana Imbrock about joining us!

WEDNESDAYS start again on January 10th! Explorers and Energizers for grades 7 - 8 and 9 - 12 meet weekly on Wednesday nights, 7 - 8:30pm. Talk to Gini Rogers for details!

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

<u>Attendance</u>	December 23, Advent 4	-	50
	December 24, Christmas Eve	-	701
	<u>December 25, Christmas Day</u>	-	53
	Total Attendance	-	804



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

☪ CALENDAR ☪

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)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OFFICE CLOSED

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:30am Quilters (103-4)
11:30am OWLS Planning (102)
7:00pm Boy Scouts (FLC)
7:00pm SW Historical Society (103-4)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

1:00pm Small Group (102)
6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

3:30pm **EPIPHANY PARTY** Grades K-6
6:00pm **EPIPHANY PARTY** Grades 7-12
4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

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)
12:00pm SS Teacher Training (103-4)
1:00pm High School IQA (HS Room)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

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/>