

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

DATED MATERIALS

FEBRUARY 2024

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

FEBRUARY 2024

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional


Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
				1 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting 3pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	2 Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	3 Private Event 12pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm																																																	
4 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am SS Teacher Training 12pm High School IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm	5 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	6 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm	7 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	8 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	9 Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	10 EAGLE DEADLINE SOUPER BOWL Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm																																																	
11 SOUPER BOWL Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am High School IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm	12 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	13 Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Shrove Tuesday Chris Cakes 5:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	14 ASH WEDNESDAY BSF 9:30am Noon Worship 12pm Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6pm Evening Worship 7pm Chancel Choir 7:45pm	15 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting 3pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	16 Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	17 Private Event 9am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm																																																	
18 Traditional Worship 8:15am MINISTRY FAIR 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am High School IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm	19 Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	20 Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	21 BSF 9:30am Lenten Worship 12pm Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6pm Evening Worship 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:45pm	22 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Adv. Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	23 Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	24 Private Event 1pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm																																																	
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR:

2024 MINISTRY FAIR

PLANTING SEEDS & GROWING STEWARDS

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18TH 9:30-10:30
(DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR) IN THE FAMILY LIFE
CENTER FOR OUR MINISTRY FAIR.

COME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT MINISTRIES
OF ST. JOHN'S, SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE AND TO SEE WHERE
YOUR GIFTS MAY FIT IN OUR PARISH. ASK QUESTIONS AND
DISCOVER WHERE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO SHARE YOUR
STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES.

WE WILL BE SERVING A LIGHT BREAKFAST AND
HOPE TO HAVE A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL
MORNING FOR EVERYONE.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE YOU THERE!

CONTACT MEGAN GROSSMAN
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

614.905.2629
MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG

Please join us

IN THE DEDICATION:

Of our new addition at

St. Johns

SUN | MARCH | 2024
3

We hope you can join us in celebrating the
completion of our accessibility project. We will
start with a combined worship at 11:00am in
the Sanctuary, move to the dedication and end
with a celebration luncheon.

Let us give Thanksgiving to God's
incredible gift.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SALMON INSERT WITH THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON BY
FEBRUARY 25TH, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
CONTACT MEGAN GROSSMAN
MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG

A vertical strip on the left side of the page features several pink heart-shaped balloons of varying sizes, some with white strings, set against a light pink background.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF JAN. 14, 2024

Accessibility Project

Given in memory of **Walter Roth** by Susan Koehler.

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Susan Koehler; Nancy Mellen; Raymond and Karen Bentley; Barbara Armentrout; and Keith and Jane Stenerson.

Given in memory of **Robert Swanson** by Barbara Armentrout; Wilma Phillips; Keith and Jane Stenerson; Nancy Mellen; Raymond and Karen Bentley; and Doris Leibrock.

Given in memory of **Joann Allwine** by Keith and Jane Stenerson.

Given in memory of **Pastor Ray and Jan Rosenthal** by Averil MacKenzie.

Given in memory of **Rosemary Turnbull** by Cheryl Thompson.

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Jim Braskett; Cathy Williams; Ike and Shelah Stage; Denise Baumbusch; Dan Witterman; Luanne Shelby; Cathy Howard; Averil MacKenzie; Beryl Spangler; Dury and Joann Sudduth; Geroge and Mary Hartman; Marilyn Eesley Kemz; Miles and Kay Patton; Richard and Evelyn Lyday; Richard and Cheryl Thompson; Karen and Dan New and the DeWees Family; Jim and Carol Rorick; Town and Country Travel; Debbie and Chuck Manofsky; and Averil MacKenzie.

Given in memory of **Marian Breckenridge** by Dellno and Betty Lewis; and Dan and Jodee Shipley, Greg Shipley and Jessica Rife; and Dan Crook and Danielle Shipley-Crook.

Given in memory of **Joann Allwine** by Ike and Shelah Stage; and Fred and Joyce Schoch.

Given in memory of **Robert Swanson** by Dwight and Cindy Henriksen.

General Endowment Fund

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Dellno and Betty Lewis; Sally and JoAnne; Barry and Nancy Fisher; and Wilma Phillips.

Memorial Fund, Handbells

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Andrea Offenburger.

Given in memory of **Paul Offenburger** by Jim and Ann Jones; Susan Locey; and Betty and Dellno Lewis.

Memorial Fund, Music Ministry

Given in memory of **Fritz Buck** by Averil MacKenzie.

Memorial Fund, Youth Ministry

Given in memory of Rosemary Turnbull by Averil MacKenzie; Dinah and Fred Gretschi; and Chris Snashall.

Building and Maintenance Fund (Operating Fund)

Given in honor of the retirement of Mike Esposito by Wilma Phillips; and JoAnne Keller.

Benevolence Fund

Given in memory of **Rita Lang** by Averil MacKenzie.

EASTER LILY SALE

As in previous years, the Sanctuary of St. John's will be filled with the beauty of white Easter lilies as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Each plant will be in a six-inch pot. The cost of each lily will be \$7.00. You may order your lilies now by completing the form below and turning it in at the church with your check. Make checks payable to "St. John's" and mark for "Lily Order."

Please pick up your flowers after the 11:00am service on Easter Sunday.

Orders must be received on or before Monday, March 25th, 2024.

Name of person ordering

Phone number _____
(In case of questions)

Number of Lilies _____ x \$7.00 = _____

Method of payment (mark one) ☐ Cash ☐ Check



Your flower order dedication

List names below just as you wish names to appear in service folder
(i.e. "The Davis Family" or "Art and Freida Davis")

Given by:

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

"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.

"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.

"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.

"St. John's congregation, It has been 30 years and as we move into 2024 it is 31 years since you commissioned and set us out! God has blessed, grown us, protected us, and helped us to bless others in our Aviation Ministry with MAF. First in P.N.G. for 15 years and now globally for a second 15 years! PRAISE GOD! Thank you, St. John's!" ~ Tim and Carol Imbrock.



"Dear St. John's, Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, and concern for our dad, Bob Eesley. Special thanks to Pastors Seth and Karen for their ministries, Pastor Patti for her services and support to him, and JoAnne Keller for her in-home communion. It all meant so much! Our appreciation for the lovely lunch by the Bereavement Committee! Thank you for sharing your lovingly made Prayer Shawls. We are deeply touched by your faith, generosity, and support. Sincerely," ~ the Eesley Family.

"Dear St. John's, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, too! What a wonderful surprise to receive our gifts and poinsettia for Christmas. Phil and I are so thankful for your thoughtfulness. Love," ~ Phil and Cindy Pennington.

"St. John's, Thank you for the poinsettia and gift bag. I really appreciate it! Thanks to everyone who delivered these gifts of love." ~ Bonnie Swanson.

"Dear members of St. John's, It's a ... Christmas Miracle! Your giving has helped us reach 94% of our 2023 support target. God has richly blessed us through you! Your faithful, generous support (\$5,509) is a testimony of God's provision and care for us as we serve together with MAF in this pilot training role. A t-shirt slogan 'grabbed' my attention this Christmas. It read, 'Make Heaven Crowded.' Thank you for 'making heaven crowded!'" ~ Tim and Carol Imbrock.

"Thank you for the Christmas Kindness poinsettia, candy, and cards. Thank you for the Angel Tree gifts for my family in need. Thank you for the prayer shawls for my family and friends in their time of loss of family members." ~ Judy Graessle.

"I wish to thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and Christmas gifts that were dropped off to me by Ginny Bent before the holiday. Sorry I missed my friend as I was picked by my daughter and spent most of the day with her. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are much appreciated. I also want to mention a special thank you to Lisa and Dave Stallard for bringing me communion each month. I always enjoy our visit and getting caught up on mutual connections. God bless everyone and I hope you have a safe and healthy new year." ~ Jan Evans.

"On behalf of the Kitchen Committee, I want to thank everyone for their generous donation of towels and wash cloths. It is very much appreciated not only by the Kitchen Committee, but everyone who's involved with the use of the kitchen. Thank you." ~ Wilma Phillips.

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



Adventure Club (ages 4 through 4th grade) and Faith Trek (grades 5 - 6) meet weekly on Thursday nights, 5:45pm - 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, crafts, and an active learning Bible lesson. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us. Talk to Laurie Pecuch or email her at lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org for more details. *Please note that Adventure Club and Faith Trek do not meet on days that SWCS cancels school due to bad weather.*

We also won't meet on Feb. 15th, with the start of Lent.

Explorers (grades 7—8) and Energizers (grades 9 - 12) meet weekly on Wednesday nights, 7pm - 8:30pm. Learn more about it by connecting with Gini Rogers or Diana Imbrock. Diana's email is dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org. *Please note: Youth groups do not meet on days that SWCS cancels school due to bad weather. Youth groups will not meet on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th.*

High School IQA Bible Study is studying the book of Ephesians. This is a great time to join! Meet us on the third floor, in the high school room.

TWO SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES in February are "Blankets of Love" and "Souper Bowl Sunday". Sign-ups for this and all service opportunities are in the confirmation room. See bulletin/Eagle newsnotes for more details or talk to Diana Imbrock.

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/>



Sundays at 9:30am...classes for all ages, including a parenting group that meets in 103-104 with Amy Wanner. Need some encouragement? This is a great place to be on Sunday mornings.

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!

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

I had been on this trip twice before and I still never know what to expect. This year was more challenging than the others. I was paired with two girls, Zaori and Rebeca. They are both over the age of 13. I was worried initially that we wouldn't connect easily. My worries were unfounded though because our God is so great!

It was difficult the first couple of days because they were so independent. I chose to trust God though, because I knew we were paired for a reason. I wanted them to know that I was there for them if they needed me. So, my goal was to simply be present.

As the week went on, I could see God's hand at work. Each day, they opened up to me little by little. Rebeca and I finally clicked the night of the fair. We ran around under the lights, played games, ate nachos and had raspadas (those were her favorite). It was a beautiful night, and you could see so many stars.

The next day, we all went to the beach. Here, the Lord provided a way for me to deepen my connection with Zaori. I could tell she was nervous about going into the ocean. So, we went together. We ran into the waves as fast as we could. When the waves started getting larger, she latched onto my arm. I would count down to each wave and then we would jump. I think it was her first time in the ocean and it was the most I had seen her smile and laugh.

My niñas were very much considered mother type figures since they were among the oldest of the group. It was amazing to see how they took care of their friends, especially the little ones. To me, it seemed like God wanted them to feel like kids again and to be the ones being served.

I can only hope and pray that this week brought them, if even a little bit, closer to Jesus. I pray that they feel and know they are loved, and that they know their worth. They both made such an impact on me and helped me to grow in my faith. I hope they saw Jesus in me because I saw Him shining through them.

¡Gloria a Dios!
Emily Briggeman



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!

Women's Ministry



Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Amy Shaw
614-496-2890

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, February 10 at 9am
and Tuesday, February 27 at 6pm
in rooms 103-4.



tacklehunger.org

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: **"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."**

Since then, over \$175 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

We will be collecting monies (cash and checks) for Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 10th and 11th at all the worship services. Your cash

donations will be used to purchase and deliver food to the Grove City Food Pantry. Checks made out to "St. John's Lutheran" will be deposited and one check sent to the LSS Food Pantry. Please note in the check memo: *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Please consider donating to the hungry individuals and families in our community. If you want to learn more, go to www.tacklehunger.org. *Thank you! ~ Brooklyn Cress*

Blankets of Love 2024



Blankets of Love is back! This year's student leader is Layla Greer, an eighth grader with a caring servant's heart.

During the month of February, we are asking groups or families to sponsor a Bed Brigade Blessing Bag (with the blanket and a sheet set), tie a blanket, or both!

Then the Blessing Bags will be given to the Bed Brigade for their deliveries. If your group or family would like to participate, contact Layla on Sunday mornings or Diana Imbrock throughout the week.

Help make a child's winter snuggly warm!



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 those who helped with the cookie sale! We would like to also thank those who gave a monetary donation for our sale. Together we had a wonderful time and thank you all for supporting this ministry.

I want to thank everyone for all of the retirement cards and best wishes. I also want to thank everyone for the sympathy cards from the death on Christmas Eve. That day will have a dual meaning to me for the remainder of my life.

I had planned to be attending Saturday services every week right away, but COVID stopped that for a couple of weeks. I have moved on from that.

Thanks for your friendship and kindness over the past 20 years, and I will see you in church.
God Bless you all!

~ Mike Esposito.

THE QUILTERS—TUESDAYS at 9:30am



The Quilters' main emphasis is trying to add a bit of happiness for children and adults through acts of Christian concern and understanding. To meet this emphasis, we make quilts, prepare used stamps for two veterans' hospitals, collect card fronts and make and fill 100 Christmas bags for needy children.

The Quilters truly appreciate those who showed an interest in our ministry and bought quilts at our quilt sale. This past Christmas sale of 2023, we made \$688. Since 2012, the total of our sales is close to \$4000. Most of the money from the quilt sales was divided among church ministries and charities. Also, this year we donated quilts to the Bed Brigade and Maryhaven. Thank you again for supporting our ministry, and we hope our Lutheran quilts keep you toasty warm and keep the cold outside.

If you are interested in making a quilt at home for the Bed Brigade or other charity, the Quilters have the material and help. Call the church to set up an appointment with a quilter.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday morning around 9:30am until early afternoon around 1:30 pm. Come, visit and stay as long as you wish. Bring a sack lunch if you are staying during lunchtime. All materials are provided.

*"In big ways and small ways,
kindness always makes the world a better place."
~ Anonymous*

OWLS EVENT - FEBRUARY 16, 2024



The Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) are committed to providing programs the planning committee feels the group would find interesting, informative and enjoyable. Sometimes after a typical meeting, many say to us "WOW! I didn't know that! I'm glad I came!" Then we know we did a good job! If you aren't really interested in a program and don't plan to come that month maybe you can remember the good time (and food) you enjoyed the last time you did come and give it a second thought. The friendship and fellowship the OWLS share are truly gifts from God.

GARY PECUCH. That is probably all that needs said about our speaker this month. But here's more- Gary has graciously agreed to join us on the 16th and share his story about his July 2023 trip to Slovakia. He was part of a team of people that led two weeks of Vacation Bible School in two different villages.

The OWLS will provide fried chicken and meat loaf for our potluck lunch but we ask you to 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 insert 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!



SHROVE TUESDAY

food, families would feast on the shriving Tuesday, eating all the foods that would not last the forty days of Lent. Pancakes then became associated with Shrove Tuesday as their preparation would use up all the eggs, milk, and fats in the house.

Pancake races were added to the festivities when, in 1445, a woman lost track of time preparing her pancake dinner, heard the church bells calling her to worship, and ran from her house still carrying her frying pan! The most famous pancake race today is in England where the participants must toss their pancake at the start and finish of the 415-yard race and wear a scarf and apron.

In celebration of Shrove Tuesday, we will not have a race, but there will be a tossing of pancakes by **Chris Cakes in the Family Life Center from 5:30pm–7:30pm on Tuesday, February 13th at a special dinner sponsored by St. John's Mexico Missions.** The pancakes will be delicious and the fellowship fantastic! **Presale tickets are \$6.00, but the price goes to \$7.00 at the door.** Get your tickets early and join us for this special event!



About Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is a day to cleanse the soul and celebrate before the contemplative season of Lent begins. Shrove Tuesday derives its name from the ritual of “shriving” that Christians used to do in the past. In shriving, Christians confessed their sins, received forgiveness, and were released from the guilt and pain these sins had caused them.

The addition of pancakes to this celebration has an interesting history. In olden times, Christians would not eat certain foods during Lent such as meat, fish, fats, eggs, and milk products. So as to not waste any

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP:

February 14 at 12 noon and 7:00pm



We begin the season of Lent with this day of repentance and renewal, on which we remember that “we are dust, and to dust we shall return.” We will have two services with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at **Noon and 7:00pm** on Wednesday, February 14th.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Thinking About Sin

Leviticus 18:26-19:2 and Romans 3:19-24

Christians have long focused too much on other people's sins, especially non-Christians. Turning the microscope on ourselves, it becomes all too clear in light of Jesus' perfect example of righteousness and the sheer holiness of God how unrighteous we are by comparison. We like to comfort ourselves with the fact we haven't committed certain “big” sins, like murder, adultery, theft, etc., but what makes the Seven Deadly Sins (which are not directly biblical) perhaps more incisive than the Ten Commandments is their smallness, their personalness. The seven are the quiet, internal roots of so many other sins, and that is why we must explore them—and examine ourselves—so closely.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY, 2024

“Sinning Like a Christian”

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

February 21—March 20 at 12 noon and 6:30pm

Be sure to make Wednesday worship part of your observance of Lent this year! Worship will take place in the Sanctuary at noon and 6:30pm each and every Wednesday from February 21 through March 20.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st: Pride

Genesis 3:1-7 and Philippians 2:3-11

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th: Envy

Genesis 4:1-8 and Matthew 20:1-16

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6th: Sloth

Ecclesiastes 1:1-9 and John 5:1-9a

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13th: Anger

Psalms 137:7-9 and John 2:13-17

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th: Greed

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 and Matthew 6: 16:19-24

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28th: Gluttony

Philippians 3:17-21 and Matthew 6:25-33

Early Church History of St. John's

Prepared by Hunter Thompson



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is the oldest religious organization in Grove City. The history begins with St. John's in 1849. It was for those first pioneers of two Lutheran groups, one German and the other English. The German group was made up of people who had been in the country for a short period of time and spoke no English. The other group was made up of Pennsylvania Germans who could speak English and came to Ohio to find cheaper land. The first service was held in a log cabin called the Highland Mission. Mr. Breck and the Rev. R. K. Davis conducted the first service. Beginning in the new year of 1851, the members of the church were called to a meeting for the business of calling Professor William Lehmann for his assistance. Lehmann only served the German congregation and Rev. Greenwalt was called to hold the English services every other Sunday in the afternoon. In 1853, there was a new church built by George Weygandt. The tradition states that there was no sacristy, no organ, no choir loft, and no choir. In 1856, the English section withdrew from the church with others from the community coming to form the Presbyterian Church. During the same year, another group of people of the Missouri Synod Lutherans united to form a church called St. Paul's Lutheran Church only for five years until they merged with St. John's. Also in 1856, Lehmann resigned from being reverend. Rev. I. A. Schulze was called to serve both the German and English parts of the congregation. But he resigned in 1858. So, needing a new reverend, St. John's called Professor Emmanuel Schmid who served both St. John's and another congregation in addition to teaching at Capital University. In 1863, St. John's called their first resident pastor, Rev. Charles G. Reichert. There was talk because some of the congregation felt they could not be sure if they could guarantee an annual salary of \$300. He spoke several different languages, he was a good musician, and gifted in poetry, for which he wrote many great poems. During his tenure he instituted the children's celebration of Christmas and taught German in the parish. In 1871, the church bought its first organ at the price of \$550. In the great summer of 1885, Rev. Reichert was prompted to resign because of his old age.

To Be Continued.....

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

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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.

JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship:

Saturdays at 4:00pm,
Sundays at 8:15am & 11am

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 11am

Sunday School: every Sunday, 9:30am
Classes for all ages

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

the family and friends of
Joyce Schoch,
who passed away on January 15, 2024.

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

Please join us for the DEDICATION

of the new

ACCESSIBILITY WING

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

11:00 Worship with

Noon Dedication and Lunch

R.S.V.P. before February 25th

by marking a *Salmon Sheet* at worship

or by calling Church at

(614) 875-2314

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in
the Family Life Center on **Tuesday, February 27,
2024, from 12 noon until 6 pm.**

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

Church Office hours are

Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.

**The article deadline for the MARCH 2024
Eagle is FEBRUARY 10TH.**

Email announcements & articles to
secretary@stjohnsgc.org
or leave a handwritten copy in the church office.



The Eagle

February 2024

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

Letter from the Associate Pastor

“By His Wounds We Are Healed” — Isaiah 53:5

Dear Friends,

The story is told of a small, orphaned boy who lived with his grandmother. One night the house caught fire as they slept. The grandmother was overcome with smoke. A crowd gathered around the burning house, and the boy's screams for help could be heard above the crackling of the blaze. Yet no one seemed to know what to do until help arrived.

Suddenly a stranger rushed through the crowd and began climbing an iron pipe that extended to the home's second floor. Hand over hand, he climbed the hot pipe, until he reached the upstairs window and disappeared. He reappeared seconds later to the cheers of the crowd, with the boy in his arms, then climbed back down the hot pipe as the child hung around his neck.

Weeks later a public hearing was held to determine in whose custody the orphaned boy would be placed. Each person wanting the boy was permitted to speak briefly. The first man said, “I have a huge farm. Every boy needs the outdoors.” The second one said, “I’m a teacher. I have a large library, so he would receive a great education.” Others came forward, too, until finally the richest man in town spoke. “I’m wealthy. I could give the boy everything mentioned so far: farm, education, and plenty besides, including money and travel. I would like him to come live with my wife and me.

The judge asked, “Would anyone else like to say a word?” From the rear of the room rose a stranger who had slipped unnoticed into the hall. As he walked toward the front with his hands in his pockets, deep suffering showed on his face. Reaching the front, he stood directly in front of the boy whose custody was being decided. Slowly, the stranger removed his hands from his pockets, and a gasp was heard throughout the room.

The man's hands were terribly scarred. Suddenly, the boy emitted a cry of recognition. Here was the very man who had saved his life. The farmer left, the teacher too. Then the rich man. Everyone departed, leaving the boy alone with his rescuer, who had won him without a word. The scarred hands spoke more effectively than words of his love for the boy.

The scarred, nail-pierced hands of Jesus speak effectively, too. They speak of forgiveness, life, love and salvation. And ultimately, of our adoption as God's own daughters and sons.

The season of Lent is upon us - 40 days in which to prepare for the celebration of God's great saving event at Easter... the Resurrection. Lent begins this year, ironically enough on Valentine's Day. When we love someone, one of the ways we show it is to spend time with them, to converse with them and get to know them in a more personal way. Our theme, which is explained in detail inside this newsletter is on prayer - specifically, praying with Jesus on the way to the Cross.

I invite you in this journey of Lent to deepen your relationship with the Lord through Mid-week Lenten services, Adult Sunday School Classes, daily prayer and Scripture reading, fasting, and quiet reflection on your spiritual journey.

But most of all, I invite you to throw your arms around the Savior's neck and hang on for dear life.

Looking Forward in Faith

Pastor Patti