

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

DATED MATERIALS

MARCH 2024

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ORGANIZATION

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



# *The Eagle*

MARCH 2024

## **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

### Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am


### Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

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

### Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 12 and  
7pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>  </div>						
<b>3</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am <b>Accessibility Dedication and Celebration Dinner 12:30pm</b> IQA Bible Study 1pm Prayers and Pins 3pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm	<b>4</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>5 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE</b> Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts 7pm SW Hist. Soc. 7pm	<b>6</b> BSF 9:30am <b>Lenten Worship 12pm</b> Small Group 1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6pm <b>Evening Worship 6:30pm</b> Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>7</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	<b>8</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	<b>9</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Private Event 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>10 EAGLE DEADLINE</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. and Cont. Worship 11am IQA Bible Study 1pm Prayers and Pins 3pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm	<b>11</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Small Group 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>12</b> Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>13</b> BSF 9:30am <b>Lenten Worship 12pm</b> Small Group 1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6pm <b>Evening Worship 6:30pm</b> Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>14</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adv. Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	<b>15</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	<b>16</b> Private Event 8am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>17</b> Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am <b>Easter Egg Stuffing 12:30pm</b> IQA Bible Study 1pm Prayers and Pins 3pm Adult Basketball 5:00pm Saddles n Such 4-H 6pm	<b>18</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>19 VOTING DAY</b> Quilters 9:30am Private Event 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>20</b> BSF 9:30am <b>Lenten Worship 12pm</b> Small Group 1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6pm <b>Evening Worship 6:30pm</b> Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>21</b> Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Home School Acting 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adv. Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>22</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	<b>23</b> <b>EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY 10am</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
<b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b> Trad. Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am IQA Bible Study 1pm Prayers & Pins 3pm Adult B-ball 5:00pm	<b>25</b> BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Small Group 6:30pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>26</b> Quilters 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>27</b> BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	<b>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm <b>Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm</b> Dartball 8pm (home)	<b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b> Bulletin Team 10:30am <b>Good Friday Worship 12pm</b> Men's Chorale 4pm <b>Good Friday Worship 7pm</b> AA 8:30pm	<b>30</b> Private Event 9am AA Annual Celebration 3:30pm Traditional Worship 4pm



The poster is divided into two horizontal sections. The top section has a background of a wooden plank surface with numerous colorful Easter eggs scattered across it. The eggs are in various colors including yellow, purple, teal, pink, and light blue, some with speckles. The text is overlaid on this background. The bottom section has a background of a wooden plank surface with various Easter-themed items: chocolate eggs, colorful candy-coated eggs, heart-shaped candies, star-shaped candies, and small colorful beads. The text is overlaid on the left side of this section.

# Easter Family Fun Day

**Saturday March 23rd, 10:00am**

A fun morning for the whole family. Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We will have Easter egg hunts for all ages, puppets & more!

We hope you and your family & friends can join us!

## Easter Candy

## Donations

WE ARE ASKING FOR  
INDIVIDUALLY  
WRAPPED CANDY  
DONATIONS FOR  
OUR EASTER FAMILY  
FUN DAY!  
PLEASE BRING THEM  
TO CHURCH BY  
SUNDAY MARCH  
17TH AND PLACE IN  
THE LABELED BIN IN  
THE LINK.





"Dear St. John's family, We are grateful for the warm welcome and help so many of you have been. We look forward to getting to know you this year!" ~ The Stanleys (Dale, Rosalind, Evie, Miles, Liat, & Devar)

"Dear Members of St. John's-Jeanne and I send our thanks to you for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recuperation from a fractured knee cap. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. Special thanks to Dellno and Betty Lewis for bringing us flowers, a bulletin, annual report, and devotional. Also,

special thanks to Dave and Lisa Stallard for bringing us Holy Communion. We appreciated and enjoyed both visits. Jeanne and I miss being in Church, and hope to be back soon. Blessings to all." ~ Pastor Tom and Jeanne.

"Dear St. John's Lutheran Church of Grove City, Thank you for your recent donation of diapers, bottles, a quilt, and a Pack-n-Play. Our moms, dads, and babies will greatly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you for walking alongside us to love them well!" ~ Anne Marie Weakley, Community Outreach Coordinator, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers.

"Members of St. Johns, I am so overwhelmed and happy to be a member of this church! This year, we hit a record for how much the church was able to raise for the Souper Bowl of Caring. In checks that will be given to Lutheran Social Services, we raised \$695. In cash that will go to buying food for the Grove City Food Pantry, which our youth will help in purchasing this summer, we raised \$1,664.52! Adding these two totals together, we as a church raised 2,359.52!!! All of this money will help so many people who don't have enough money to go buy food. I would like to thank everyone who helped collect money. I can't wait to continue to see this project flourish in the coming years. Thank you so much St. Johns family! Sincerely," ~ Brooklyn Cress.

### **Youth in Service**

Thanks to all who helped in the Blankets of Love and Souper Bowl Sunday Service Projects. Winters are warmer and stomachs fuller thanks to your generosity! Special thanks to youth project leaders Layla Greer and Brooklyn Cress! We LOVE our student leaders and youth; they love to serve and serve to love!

### **Mitten Tree**

Thank you for your generous donations to the Mitten Tree this year! We collected over 800 items to go to the Grove City Free Store, and many items were given out immediately. If you are planning on donating next year, the Free Store mentioned that gloves are their greatest need. Thank you again!

Thanks to St. John's baby bottle donations as well as the support of many other churches and individuals in the Columbus area, our local pregnancy support center was able to help many teens, women, and families again this year!

In 2023, the Pregnancy Decision Help Centers (PDHC), which have four area locations, fielded over 70,000 calls and texts. 2200 people were served by in-person classes and one-on-one sessions, everyone prayed over! The centers conducted 1500 pregnancy tests and 1130 ultrasound exams to give women information about their pregnancies.

Staff members and volunteers prayed with women in difficult situations, rejoiced at healthy births, shared the Gospel, guided teens into wise decisions, and gave out untold diapers, baby clothes and other necessities.

The politics of abortion are contentious, but acts of compassion are always in order. Thank you for helping those who support women and families through some of their most challenging seasons.

If you're interested in learning more about life issues, including abortion, human trafficking, end-of-life issues and more, please join us on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in room 101. Thank you!

Your Respect Life Committee

# 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.**

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Name of person ordering

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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:

---

## 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](mailto:lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org) for more details. ***Please note, we do meet Holy Week, March 28th.***

**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](mailto:dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org). ***Please note, we do not meet Holy Week, March 27th.***

**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., on Sundays from 1 - 2pm.

**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!



There are a number of service opportunities available to families who love to serve together and have a heart for service. See Diana if your family would like to take part and she can connect you with a special opportunity unique for your family!

## Mexico Musings

Dear St. John's Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support of our Mexico Mission Family and the children we spent the week with at Rancho Genesis. We had 21 children this year from an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. I was paired with a 13-year-old boy names Jesús Roberto. Different than the previous years where the boys I had were younger and I clicked with right away, Roberto was much more quiet and distant. I also found out that he had to take medication which made him sleepy. There were times during the camp activities where he would just lay his head down and take a nap. It did help that he was close to the lady caretaker from the orphanage and the adult ladies in the camp who spoke Spanish. After a couple of days, things began to change. He started being friendly to me. And when he received a Bible from us, he had me fill out the inside page and he wanted me to sign my name. That was special! As the week progressed, he wanted to hang out with me more, to sit next to him at meals and campfires, and to help him with the activities. During one team activity where we were creating a team flag, he showed his creativity and drawing and painting talent. He also displayed that he had a beautiful singing voice. He was a nice young man who shows a lot of potential. It is my prayer that he will give his heart to Jesus and that God will fulfill this verse:

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11*

¡Gloria a Dios!

Matt Easterday

### **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.



Dear St. John's Family,

*Mark 9: 36-37*

*"He took a little child and had them stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me.'"*

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support of our Mexico Mission Family and the children we spent the week with at Rancho Genesis. We had 21 children this year from an orphanage in Tijuana. I was paired with a young girl named Kendra, who was the daughter of the caretaker that came with the children. It was difficult to bond with her at the beginning of the week because she had her mom with her. On ocean day, she began to trust me and let me take her out into the waves where we laughed and played. I was able to show her God's love even though I didn't know the language.

God was showing me unconditional love by watching the caretakers as they interacted with all the children as if they were their own. I learned more about loving God's children through their example. I returned to Grove City with a full heart and love for God's children.

Thank you again!

¡Gloria a Dios!

Kim Easterday

## OWLS AND JORDAN'S CROSSING REQUEST

The **Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS)** are asking for donations from members of St. John's to help a very worthwhile organization that works with the homeless and addicted on the west side, primarily the Hilltop area. Fred and Donna Rieser are directors of this program that serves daily hot lunches, daily sack lunches, and works with Healthcare Connections to Mt. Carmel and Southeast Mental Health Services among many other ministries. The Riesers will be the guest speakers at the OWLS March 15, 2024, meeting. If you would like to join the OWLS in helping with the donation, it would be appreciated. A few suggested items they could use are: tents, tarps, sleeping bags, plastic forks, napkins, sandwich bags, socks and of course, monetary donations. For more information, check out the OWLS article in March's Eagle or call Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002 or email [bss4903@yahoo.com](mailto:bss4903@yahoo.com). You can also arrange for your donation to be picked up by contacting Bonnie. Thank you in advance for your support.

### OWLS EVENT MARCH 15, 2024

**PLEASE NOTE: WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE WHEN WE CANCELED JANUARY'S MEETING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

**But the good news is Fred and Donna Rieser will be with us at our March 15th meeting.**

The Older Wiser LutheranS (OWLS) are looking forward to kicking off 2024 with speakers from Jordan's Crossing, Fred Donna 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.

If you would like to donate, here is a partial list of suggested items they need – new or used. Of course, cash is always appreciated.

Tents	Tarpolines	Sleeping Bags	Plastic Forks
Cook Tops	Sandwich Bags	Socks	Napkins
	3 Compartment To-Go Containers		

You can purchase items on your own and either bring them to the meeting or call Bonnie Swanson and she will arrange to have your donation picked up prior to the 15th. You can also order from their wish list on Amazon's website: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2766ZSWRK78B2?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2766ZSWRK78B2?ref_=wl_share) and have item(s) delivered directly to Jordan's Crossing. If you need assistance, call Bonnie .

The OWLS will provide fried chicken and meat loaf for our potluck lunch but we ask you bring a covered dish and join your friends for a delicious lunch and a wonderful program. Please plan to arrive around 11:15 am so we can open the meeting at 11:30 am.

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!



For details, contact Laurie at [lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org](mailto: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!



## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>:

Pastor Jersild will be leading a class on Holy Communion for children on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at church from 12:15—1:45pm. The class will be geared towards 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; however, younger children who have expressed a serious desire to receive the sacrament are welcome to participate (as are older youths who have not yet received this instruction). We ask that at least one adult be present at the class with each child. We'll meet in the confirmation classroom on the third floor of the education wing. At the end of the class, parents and students will discuss whether the student is ready to receive the sacrament. Those who are ready will participate in their first communion at the **11:00 traditional worship service on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)**. Please call Pastor Seth (217-255-2118) or the church office (614-875-2314) if you have any questions regarding your child's participation in the class.

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS and NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION IN APRIL!

**A Membership Class will be held at 12:15pm on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.** We'll start with lunch together in room 103-4. All visitors to our congregation, our newest members, and all potential members are invited to come! The classes will cover Christian mission at St. John's, and we'll be able to answer any questions you have about our congregation and our Lutheran Christian heritage. We will formally receive new members into our congregation during the **11:00am traditional worship service on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. We hope you can come!

Are you looking for a church home, or do you have questions about our congregation? Call Pastor Seth at 217-255-2118 any time.

### The QUILTERS

It's never too late to donate your Christmas card and other card fronts to the Quilters. We take them to the Cancer Thrift Store when we have a sizeable stack of fronts. The fronts are a favorite material for craftspeople.

If you would like to make a quilt at home for a charity, we have fabric, encouragement, and friendship at no cost. Come visit any Tuesday or call the church to set up a meeting.

**The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30 pm, or thereabout, in room 103-4.** Stay as long or as short as your interest and time allow. We also encourage just coming by, visiting and talking with us. We have room for you as we are a small group. If you are staying during lunchtime, bring a sack lunch. We have all the supplies and materials you will need.

*"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he, too, will cry out and not answered."  
~ Proverbs 21:13*

### BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Evan and Kate Stith on the baptism of their son, **Michael Andrew**, on Sunday, February 4th in the 8:15am traditional service.

Congratulations to **Emily Montieth** for her baptism alongside the baptism of her children, Xander and **Myra Lechner**, on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in the 11am contemporary service.

### 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 now through March 20.

#### 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

### HOLY WEEK MARCH 24—30

**March 23—Easter Family Fun Day**

**March 24—Palm Sunday**

**March 28—Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00pm with Holy Communion**

**March 29—Good Friday worship at 12 noon and 7:00pm**

**March 30—Saturday Evening traditional worship at 4:00pm**

**March 31—Easter Sunday Worship at 8:15am and 11:00am**

A decorative yellow floral branch with small blossoms and leaves, positioned in the top left corner of the invitation.

# 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.

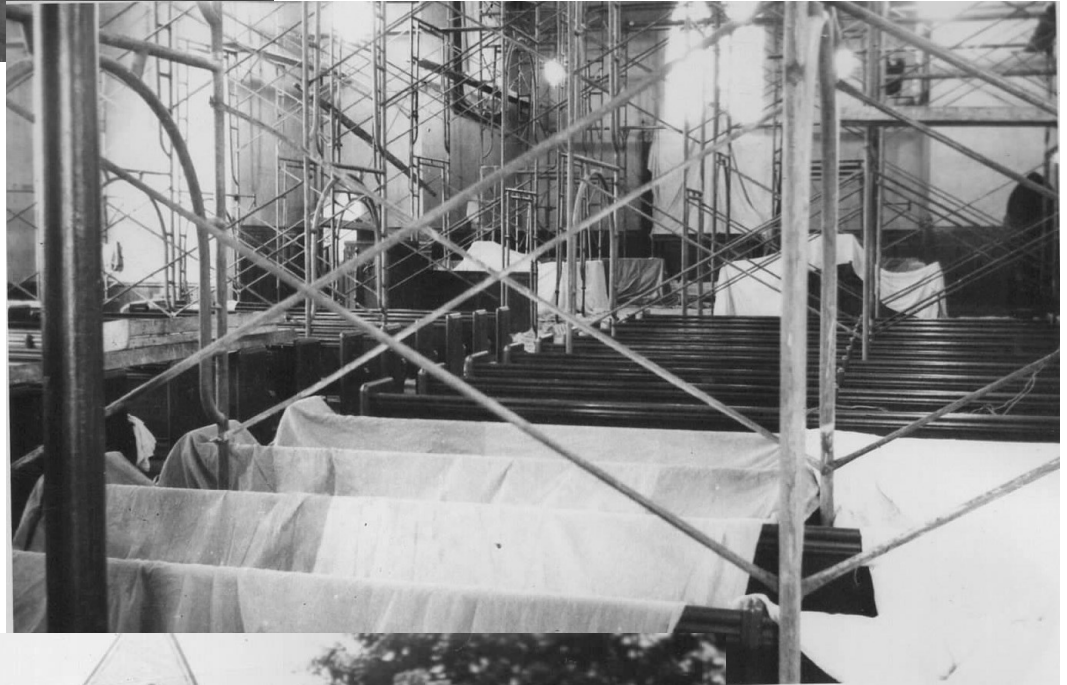
Let us give Thanksgiving to God's incredible gift.

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 decorative yellow floral branch with small blossoms and leaves, positioned in the bottom right corner of the invitation.

## St. John's Centennial Celebration

Seventy-five years ago, St. John's kicked off its centennial celebration with a service re-dedicating the church on February 27, 1949. This followed an extensive renovation project, including repairing the roof and gutters, modernizing the kitchen, and installing new walks. During the renovation, which began in the fall of 1948, the congregation met for services at the Grove City High School auditorium. Besides the re-dedication service, other events celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the parish included a reunion of confirmands, guest preachers, a special banquet, and publication of a history of St. John's.





## Early Church History of St. John's

Prepared by Hunter Thompson



After the resignation of Pastor Reichert, the secretary of the congregation wrote to the Western Synod District for advice. They gave advice to call the Pastor Philip Schmit who accepted the call to be the pastor at St. John's. The congregation had decided to build a new parsonage close to the northwest corner of Park Street and Dudley Avenue. Under his leadership St. John's gained prosperity it had never had before. But this did not come without controversy.

The site on where to build a new church was a problem for the congregation. Some of the members and Pastor Schmit wanted the site to be where the original church now stood. One member had purchased the adjoining property to have enough room to have a larger building. But some other members wanted the site to be on the site of the old St. Paul's church. This matter was put before a special congregational meeting. 23 of those members voted to build on the original location, but 24 members voted for the St. Paul's location. By that one vote, our church building is at where it stands today.

The original specifications for the new church was as follows: 41 feet 4 inches wide by 75 feet 4 inches long, with 9 foot transepts, and a steeple in the center front, 12 feet 10 inches square and 106 feet 6-inches high. The church was built out of brick with stone trim and a slate roof. The bricks used to build the church were fired in the old brickyard. The church cost a sum of about \$11,000.

After many delays, the church was finally dedicated. An article in a newspaper found in the basement of the church stated that

"May 12, 1889 was the day of the dedication. A special train brought 500 guests from Columbus. The speakers at the morning service were two former pastors of the congregation, Professor Emmanuel Schmidt and the Rev. I. A. Schulze. Both preached German sermons. The afternoon service was English. The preachers were Dr. M. Loy and Rev. J. Breck. At the evening service, Prof. F. W. Stellhorn preached a German sermon, and Prof. A. Pflueger delivered one in English. Special music for the day was provided by the Grove City Band, the choir of Grace Lutheran Church of Columbus, and the choir of St. John's Church".

Pastor Schmit reorganized the Sunday School. It started every year after Easter and was closed after Christmas for the winter months. Both Sunday School and the confirmation class were taught in German. In 1897 St. John's purchased a new pipe organ at the cost of \$1,200 and it was put in the balcony of the church. The church was newly decorated and new chandeliers were hung. After 27 years Pastor Schmidt gave his farewell sermon on the last Sunday in June of 1912. He and his wife moved to Columbus to be with their daughter and her husband. Pastor Schmit died in January 1913.

**To Be Continued.....**

### **MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

#### **Accessibility Project**

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Tony and Elaine Bennett.

#### **Memorial Fund**

Given in memory of **Robert Eesley** by Howard and Donna Linder; and Jane and Mike Endres; Beth Katterhenrich.

Given in memory of **Joyce Schoch** by Michael Gibboney.

#### **Bereavement Team**

Given in memory of **Mark Krieger** by Paul and Mitzie Schemrich.

#### **Memorial Fund, Music Ministry**

Given in memory of **Bob Eesley** by Beth Katterhenrich.

#### **Memorial Fund, Youth Ministry**

Given in memory of **Gail and Rosemary Turnbull** by Dinah and Fred Gretsches.

Given in memory of **Bob Eesley** by Beth Katterhenrich.



### Letter from our Intern

I think that God loves surprising us. We humans often want stability and level ground as quickly as possible (mainly adults). But I think that God enjoys leading us into places where the road bends and curves so that only the next few steps are visible. It can often be hard to trust Him. But just as we think our nerves can't take any more, the next bend in the path reveals a blessing to which God has been leading us all along.

The Stanley family has been on a journey—a little like Abraham and Sarah—in which God has led us each step of the way on a winding road full of surprises. Abraham was surprised by God's call and spent years being continually surprised by Him: a baby with Sarah when he was 100, a sacrificial offering—then another offering provided by God, and a promise to bless the whole world through a wandering nomad!

My wife, Rosalind, and I have been married for 14 years. Rosalind grew up Jewish in New England. I grew up a Methodist in the South. But God brought us together auditioning for a Shakespeare play in college. He also brought Rosalind to Christ in a small *Southern Baptist* church on the beautiful coast of Maine, and both of us into the Lutheran tradition. God loves surprising us.

Rosalind and I have four wonderful kids: Ivria "Evie", Miles, Liat, and Devar. Each one keeps growing faster than we can keep up with. Rosalind and I have watched them be baptized, play sports (Miles), read every book they can reach (Evie), do feats of acrobatic skill in the living room (Devar), and have a magic touch with animals (Liat). We thought our kids would spend the rest of their childhoods in Virginia, *but* God loves surprising us.

I spent over ten years avoiding a call to ordained ministry. I tried other areas of ministry, other jobs, and even tried to become a therapist. I was selling used cars when the call to the pastorate became too much for me to ignore. God loves surprising us.

So, Roz and I plotted out the next few years: we would both work part-time and I would take classes online. But neither of us could find part-time work that suited our needs. That was a big issue with four little ones running around the house. Then, on a whim Roz applied to one job in Pittsburgh—near my seminary—and next thing we knew, the six of us were making a life in Ambridge, PA while I attended school and Rosalind worked as a writer. God loves surprising us.

God loves surprising us. Who could have imagined that He would create a universe with such care through His Word. Who could have imagined that He would populate a planet with two-legged creatures with which He shares His love and image. Who could have imagined that He would give those creatures the freedom to choose Him (or not). And who could have imagined that this God would send His beloved Son as a poor, wandering rabbi in the rough Galilean countryside to save us and bring us back to Him when we go astray. And who could imagine that God uses people like us (my family and I, in particular) to spread the news of His love, forgiveness, and eternal plans for us? Certainly not me! God loves surprising us.

In Christ,

Dale Stanley, Pastoral Intern

### 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, March 9 at 9am**  
**and Tuesday, March 26 at 6pm**  
**in rooms 103-4.**

## 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.

## **ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

Seth Jersild, Senior Pastor 614-875-2314  
sjersild@stjohnsgc.org 217-255-2118

Patricia A. Morlock, Assoc. Pastor 614-875-2314  
pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org 740-405-1548

Dale Stanley, Intern 614-875-2314  
dstanley@stjohnsgc.org

Tim Allman 614-875-2314  
Sunday School Superintendent

Megan Grossman 614-875-2314  
Lay Ministry Director, mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org

Nick Grossman 614-875-2314  
Contemporary Worship Leader

Diana Imbrock 614-271-5775  
Youth Service Director, dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org

Tom Lang, Facilities Manager 614-875-2314  
tlang@stjohnsgc.org

Susan Locey 614-208-8215  
Bell Choir Director

Mark Meuser 614-875-2314  
Director of Music Ministries  
mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org

Janice Miller, Recorder 614-875-2314  
jmillier@stjohnsgc.org

Kathryn Mullins 614-875-2314  
Office Administrator, secretary@stjohnsgc.org

Laurie Pecuch 614-620-2669  
Children and Family Director  
lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org

Gini Rogers 614-875-2314  
Interim Youth Director, ginidrogers@gmail.com

David Shrum 614-875-2314  
Contemporary Music Leader

Jamie Wise, Recorder 614-875-2314  
jwise@stjohnsgc.org

Karen Whyte, Librarian 614-878-9392  
barnowl@iwaynet.net

**Church Office hours are  
Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.**

## **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.

the family and friends of **Mark Krieger**,  
brother of Connie Schemrich, who passed  
away on January 20, 2024.

the family and friends of  
**Pastor George Hartman**,  
who passed away on January 28, 2024.

the family and friends of **Vicky Weber**,  
who passed away in February this year.

the family and friends of **Karen McNicol**,  
mother of Suzie Brace, who passed away  
on February 9, 2024.

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

### **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.

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

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





# The Eagle

March 2024

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio  
[www.stjohnsgc.org](http://www.stjohnsgc.org) 614/875-2314

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## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the early centuries of the Christian Church, the forty days before Easter became a special training period for new believers before they were baptized *en masse* at the Vigil, the night before the Festival of the Resurrection. This training period was a corollary to the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). Designating these six weeks on the calendar as a kind of “team training season” was one of the many ways the early Church sought to follow the rhythms of Jesus’ life and imitate him.

During those forty days, the new Christians received instruction in the basic ideas and practices of the faith. A question-and-answer teaching format not only helped the neophytes grasp the fundamentals of Christianity, but also equipped them to *speak* openly about Jesus and share the Gospel with people who were submerged in a culture of paganism, skepticism, fear, and unbelief.

Over the centuries, the training period morphed into the forty day season of Lent we know now. The word “Lent” itself comes from Old English and means “Spring season.” I like how the ideas of *Training* and *Spring Renewal* ultimately came together in Lent, my personal favorite season of the Church year.

There is no worthwhile training in this broken world that does not involve self-discipline and struggle. As any top athlete will agree, effective training involves a degree of self-abnegation. Hence the traditional Lenten disciplines of renunciation (giving something up to focus more keenly on Jesus), and adding new things to our schedules (e.g. personal devotions). An old warrior proverb captures the original spirit of Lent: “Train hard, fight easy.” We don’t train to save ourselves. Jesus has already saved us, so now we can throw ourselves into the daily training that makes us more effective witnesses to Christ’s victory.

So what are some “Spring training” opportunities at St. John’s? During Lent (February 14th-March 28<sup>th</sup> this year) we, as usual, add extra Wednesday worship services to the calendar at Noon and 6:30 p.m. This year, on Wednesdays, we are talking about the seven deadly sins—a topic that helps us really delve into the Biblical subject of spiritual warfare. Of course, we always offer opportunities for believers of all ages to jump in the faith-training process: Several adult classes every Sunday, evening Bible classes, Sunday school, youth activities, mission projects, and a plethora of ongoing service opportunities.

I encourage you to participate in extra Lenten Spring training at St. John’s in any way you can. The world is always tempting us with false fixes, and the enemy loves it when we try to do everything ourselves. Jesus has set us free from the misery of trying to control every aspect of our lives. Instead of fighting our battles alone and feeling the full weight of our own weaknesses, failures and mortality, we can train ourselves for a whole new purpose in life. We can join God’s fight for the sake of the many people in our lives and in our community who are struggling with a sense of brokenness and helplessness.

Following the discipline of Lent is a way of answering Jesus’ call: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30). That might be the most surprising thing about Lent: under the dust of Ash Wednesday, the solemnity of the season, and our special acts of self-discipline, we walk with the One who opens the door to true *joy*. Christian training, like any other serious training, is going to involve failures and frustrations as well as victories. But spring is coming. A new life is coming. In Christ, it’s all going to end in a resurrection.

In His service,

*Pastor Seth Jervild*