

NEWS NOTES

August 3-4, 2024

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

Intern Dale Stanley | dstanley@stjohnsgc.org

Guest Pastor Matt Cox



Mark Meuser, Director of Music Ministry

Nick Grossman and David Shrum, Contemporary Worship Leaders

Susan Locey, Director of Celebration Ringers

☞ SERVING TODAY ☞

Greeters

4:00pm: Mary Campbell

8:15am: Armand Arabian

11:00am MD: Bill Diehl

ND: Linda Diehl

Ushers

8:15am: Steve Marcum, Dave Sweeley,
Hunter Thompson

11:00am: Rick Butsko, Bill Diehl, Carl
Patzner, Larry Sutton

Acolytes

8:15am: Colton Thompson

11:00am: Evie Stanley, Riley Millet

Contemporary Communion Prep

Karen Jersild

Altar Guild

Don and Diane Carducci

Sarah Schmitz, Donna Linder

Readers

4:00pm: Lisa Dubos

8:15am: Marilyn Smith

11:00am: Sheryl Fraley

Contemporary: Karen Jersild, Lydia Shrum

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: Barb Hill

8:15am: Teresa Orahood, Paul
Wittenberg

11:00am: Dan Yeater, Ike Stage, Brenda
Schultz

Contemporary: Karen Jersild, Karrie
Clark, Jackie Rutan

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of my mom, Jan Singleton, and grandfather, Bill England. Given by Sky Eckel.

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of my mother, Lucille Cauchi's birthday. Given by the Orahood family.

LECTERN FLOWERS: In memory of our grandmother Lucille. Given by Sara, Stephanie, Traci, Amy, and Heather.

BULLETINS: Given by Rhonda Maynard.

Lessons Today: Exodus 16:2-4,9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:22-35.

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

WELCOME, GUEST PREACHERS! From now through the fall, former pastors of St. John's will be here to share God's Word and help us celebrate our 175th anniversary. All pastors will preach during the traditional services, unless stated otherwise.



- Aug. 4th – Pastor Matt Cox
- Aug. 11th – Pastor Mark Kreemer
- Sept. 1st – Pastor Terry Morgan (not preaching)
- Sept. 22nd – Pastor Karen Caspersen (James)
- Oct. 13th – Pastor Tari Stage Harvey
- Oct. 27th – Pastor Amy Little – General Secretary, NALC

GREETERS NEEDED for both Sunday morning traditional services. Volunteers for 4pm and 8:15am services are encouraged to sign up on the Greeter's chart posted on the Parish bulletin board. We kindly request the 11:00am volunteers to contact Linda Diehl at 614-906-1408.

BULLETIN DEDICATIONS: Consider submitting a Bulletin Dedication in honor or in memory of loved ones, and to celebrate an event, milestone, birthday, or anniversary. Bulletin Dedications are only \$20.00. Reserve your preferred weekend date on the Bulletins Sign Up sheet on the Parish Entrance bulletin board. Please direct questions to Barb Armentrout at 614-875-2985.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP: Our worship services each week are beautified with wonderful music, smiling faces, and flowers. Making a flower dedication for the Altar, Pulpit, and Lectern is a wonderful way to remember or honor loved ones. Reserve your date on the Altar Flowers Chart in the Parish Entrance. Please direct questions to Lesa Corbin at 614-530-4984.



RAISE RIGHT ORDER DEADLINE is this Tuesday. Please submit your order by noon on August 6th.

175TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER! Orders due 8/25.

OWLS EVENT – AUGUST 16, 2024: The Older Wiser LutheranS’ (OWLS) August speaker will share exciting news about a program the citizens of Grove City should be very proud of - The Grove City Buddy Ball program is more than just baseball. It’s about making new friends, building self-esteem and treating everyone equally. Buddy Ball removes barriers that keep children and adults with mental and physical disabilities off the baseball field. The teams play on the Mirolo Dream Field at Mount Carmel Stadium – a custom designed tiled rubberized surface that will accommodate wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

Buddy Ball is committed to being an inclusive organization and is made up of people of all ages, from all walks of life, working side-by-side to strengthen our community. They work to ensure everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. This program is such a great experience for our youngsters who deserve it and enjoy it!!!

The OWLS will provide fried chicken 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 11:15 am so we can open the meeting at 11:30 am. 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.

Just in case you don’t know --- OWLS are **Older Wiser LutheranS** but everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC! On **Sunday August 25th at 10:45am** we will combine our three Sunday worship services into one grand outdoor worship event. Bring your lawn chair, dress casual as we gather as one congregation in our Shelter House to praise God under his beautiful blue sky.

Following our outdoor worship we will have our church picnic. The meal and beverages will be provided, and a free will offering will be collected to help offset the cost of the meal. All donations will be greatly appreciated. **Please bring a dessert to share!**

Volunteers are needed to help set up for our outdoor service and assist with the picnic. If you are able to help with either one of these, please fill out the salmon sheet or contact Megan Grossman.

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.

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.

Womens Tea Party

Saturday September 7, 2024

11:00am-2:00pm



All mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmas, aunts are invited to come
"Fill your cup"!

We will have finger foods, desserts, fun games for everyone to enjoy and 2 wonderful women sharing with us how God has filled their cups.



So wear your best party frock and join us for a wonderful afternoon with our sisters in Christ.

If you would like to help with this event or you would like to come to the event please email Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org

PASTOR MATTHEW COX: Many times, during my life someone has asked about my “call story” or they want to know when did I “get saved.” I can give a theological answer to both questions, but I would rather give the human answer, simply acknowledging a reality for me that as far back as I can reach into my memory, I cannot peg a time when I didn’t believe in God, and on some minimal level, know God. What I can remember is at age three, Betty Cambell, who lived across the street from us on Viola Avenue, was my preschool teacher at St. John’s. Betty, would gather us all around a low sand table, which sat on the floor in the basement, and we would sit on the ledge of the sand table as she would tell us bible stories in great detail. And I remember my Grandmother Riebel sitting me on her lap and reading bible stories to me, over and over again, until I knew them so well, if she missed a word I would correct her. I’m sure she appreciated the help... Many other people have come along side of me as I grew up and helped me grow in my faith.

I graduated from Grove City High school in 1973, and attended The Ohio State University that fall. In 1977, as I was finishing my final two quarters of college, I had to make a decision, either prepare myself to begin a career as a landscape horticulturist, i.e. start a business, or to change direction all together. Much to my parent’s dismay, I chose the latter. I took summer Greek at ELTS, The Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, across College Avenue from Capital University. By the end of my first year of study the seminary became known as Trinity Lutheran Seminary. In my third year I did my internship in Cut Bank, Montana. I returned to Columbus for my senior year to completed classes. During those nine months I accomplished a Clinical Pastoral Care unit, in term, at Children’s Hospital, studied for and became a private pilot, met Debbie Ferguson through mutual friends, and graduated with my M.Div. in May, 1981. Following graduation, I shipped off to Fort Monmouth, N.J. for Army Chaplain Basic Training for eleven weeks. Debbie and I were engaged by then, and she was left making all of our wedding plans. Okay, I didn’t say I was smart. On August 8th Debbie and I were married.

My first call was to be the associate pastor for Bethlehem Lutheran in Kalispell, Montana. Debbie and I actually interviewed for the call on our honeymoon while we were on a three-week camping trip out west. We served at Bethlehem for six years. Both of our boys were born in Kalispell, and we still have friends in the area.

Our next stop was Tampa, FL, as I was asked to consider a mission start in the Land O Lakes area. We arrived August 1, 1987. I began knocking on doors soon thereafter, and by All Saint’s Sunday, November 1st that year, we gathered at a restaurant that was closed on Sundays, having seventeen people in attendance. After five years the congregation was able to begin building their church home. Somewhere in the tenth years, I received a call to return to Trinity to become the Associate Director of Admissions. I was there two years and then accepted the call to St. Paul Lutheran located in New Rome on the West side of Columbus. This was Debbie’s home congregation and the place we were married. Pastor Ray Rosenthal and I worked

together for three years at St. Paul before he retired. And as you well know, Pastor Ray went on to serve here at St. John's for many years and was loved by many.

In 2009 the ELCA made an affirmative vote at the National Assembly to allow practicing homosexuals to become pastors of the church. It was a watershed moment. We at St. Paul, like many other congregations, studied the issues, set a date to vote whether we would stay or leave the ELCA. The votes to stay were five more than the votes to leave. When the NALC was set up, I accepted a call to a two-point parish, Zion Obetz and Zion Groveport. Each independently voted to leave the ELCA and become part of the nascent North American Lutheran Church. They are sister congregations that could no longer sustain a full-time pastor. I was with them for just shy of ten years before I retired. Since "retirement" I served as interim pastor for Grace Lutheran Church in Westerville for eighteen months. My last day for them was December 4, 2023. Since then, I have reacquainted myself with retirement, accepting an occasional pulpit supply request.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION 2024-25:

It's almost time to begin our 2024-25 year of confirmation class at St. John's!

If your child is entering 7th or 8th grade this fall, we encourage you to enroll him/her in our confirmation program. It's a wonderful opportunity for young people to wrestle with their faith, grow in Christ, serve in his name, and establish strong ties of friendship within God's Church.

All potential confirmation students and at least one of their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend an orientation meeting on **either one or the other** of the following dates:

-Sunday, August 25th at 12:15pm in the Main Sanctuary

-Saturday, August 31st at 1pm in the Main Sanctuary

At the orientation, we'll go over the confirmation requirements and answer any questions you may have. At the end of the orientation, you can decide whether you can make the commitment this year.

If you cannot come to either orientation session, but are interested in confirmation for your child, please call Pastor Seth Jersild at 217-255-2118 or at church 614-875-2314 today. The first regular confirmation class is scheduled for **Sunday, September 8th, at 9:30 am.**

If you know of any children outside our congregation who might be interested in confirmation instruction, please let their parents/guardians know they are very welcome to take part in our program. See you in church!

EAGLE DEADLINE is Saturday. Please submit your article by noon on August 10th!

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION TEAM: On the first Sunday of each month this team comes to receive a Holy Communion kit. The distribution of home communion is an extension of the Lord's Supper and is for those who are unable to be present at the celebration of the congregation. We bring to them the same bread of life and the same cup of blessing so that they may be strengthened through their participation in the body of Christ. Let us be mindful and grateful for this ministry.

WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will hold its next meetings on **Saturday, August 10th at 9am and on Tuesday, August 27th at 6pm in Rooms 103-4.** Everyone is welcome. Bring your knitting/crochet materials and any completed shawls to be blessed with prayer. Anyone can learn to knit or crochet with our help! For more info call Glenda at 614-352-5955 or Diana at 614-271-5775.

USED EYEGLASSES are being collected for donation to Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers located throughout the world. The used glasses are repaired and distributed to those in need in developing countries. You can donate your used eyeglasses in the drop boxes in the second-floor hallway just outside of the library.

LOST AND FOUND: Please check the Lost & Found bin located in the South Hall between the Sanctuary and first stairwell if you have lost or found any items in the church. For small items, such as rings, earrings, or headphones, please check with the office Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Eyeglasses may be donated after several weeks.

PRAYER REQUESTS should be turned in by Monday morning. Fill out the prayer request section on the salmon sheet or contact the church office at 614-875-2314. You may also email your prayer request to secretary@stjohnsgc.org. Requests are updated on a weekly basis.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm.

DAILY AND WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: www.stjohnsgc.org | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgrovecity/>

☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞

A JOYFUL PAUSE meets Thursday, August 15th! Families are invited to join us when they can and leave when they must. Choice activities include free play, arts and crafts, kitchen fun, visiting with others, 9 square, games. We have guest artists leading arts and crafts. Come between 9am - noon and/or 5:30pm - 8:30pm. We offer a morning time and an evening time for whichever one works best for you and your family. Some families even come to both! Pizza will be served around 11am and 6:30pm. This event is free. Grandparents and faith-webbing adults are welcome to join us!

GRADES 4—6 SUMMER FUN is Sunday, August 11th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm! Fun, faith, and friendship! Snacks included! We have special things planned! See Laurie for details. *Grades are the grade a student completed this past year.*

GRADES 7—12 JUST FOR YOU! Last month was amazing! Join us on Wednesday, August 14th, 6 to 9pm. Questions? Connect with Diana or Gini.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING: On Sunday, August 18th, bring your backpack to worship service and the Pastors will say a prayer over you!

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

Attendance July 28 - 292

☞ CALENDAR ☞

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
12:00pm Long Range Ministry (103-4)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE

9:30am Quilters (103-4)
11:30am OWLS Planning (102)
5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)
6:00pm SW Historical Society (SH [103-4])
7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST

1:30pm Small Group (102)

THURSDAY, AUGUST

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
2:00pm Small Group (101)
5:00pm Children's Choir (Chapel)

FRIDAY, AUGUST

9:30am Small Group (103-4)
10:30am Bulletin Team (Lib)
8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

EAGLE ARTICLES DUE

4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (103-4)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)
6:30pm Summer Fun (FLC, 103-4, FH)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Faith Discussion, FH Rm 001 / Romans, Steve Johnston, Chapel / 2 Peter, Rick Butsko, Rm 301.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: 2-4 years old, Rm 003 / ages 5 to 1st Grade, Rm 009 / Grades 2 through 4, Rm 307 / Grades 5 and 6, Rm 303 / Grades 7 through 12, High School Room 311.

SELAH ROOM: Rm 101, a quiet place available every Sunday from 8:30am to 12:30pm.