

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

DATED MATERIALS

APRIL 2024

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ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 10
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

APRIL 2024

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 12 & 7pm

www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	2 RAISE RIGHT OR-DERS DUE Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm	3 Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	4 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 (home)	5 Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	6 Private Event 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
7 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am IQA Bible Study 1pm Music Concert 4pm Adult Basketball 5pm	8 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	9 Quilters 9:30am Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	10 EAGLE DEADLINE BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	11 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Home School Acting 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	12 Bulletin Team 10:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	13 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Private Event 9am Private Event 10am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Private Event 11am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
14 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am New Member Class 12pm IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm	15 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Council 7pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	16 Quilters 9:30am Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	17 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	18 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 (home)	19 Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	20 Private Event 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
21 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am The Lego Club 12:30pm IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm	22 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Small Group 6:30pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm	23 Quilters 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	24 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	25 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Children's Choir 5pm Adv. Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	26 Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	27 Traditional Worship 4pm QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 5pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
28 Trad. Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am IQA Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm Saddles n Such 4-H 6pm	29 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprivee AA 7pm	30 Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts 7pm				



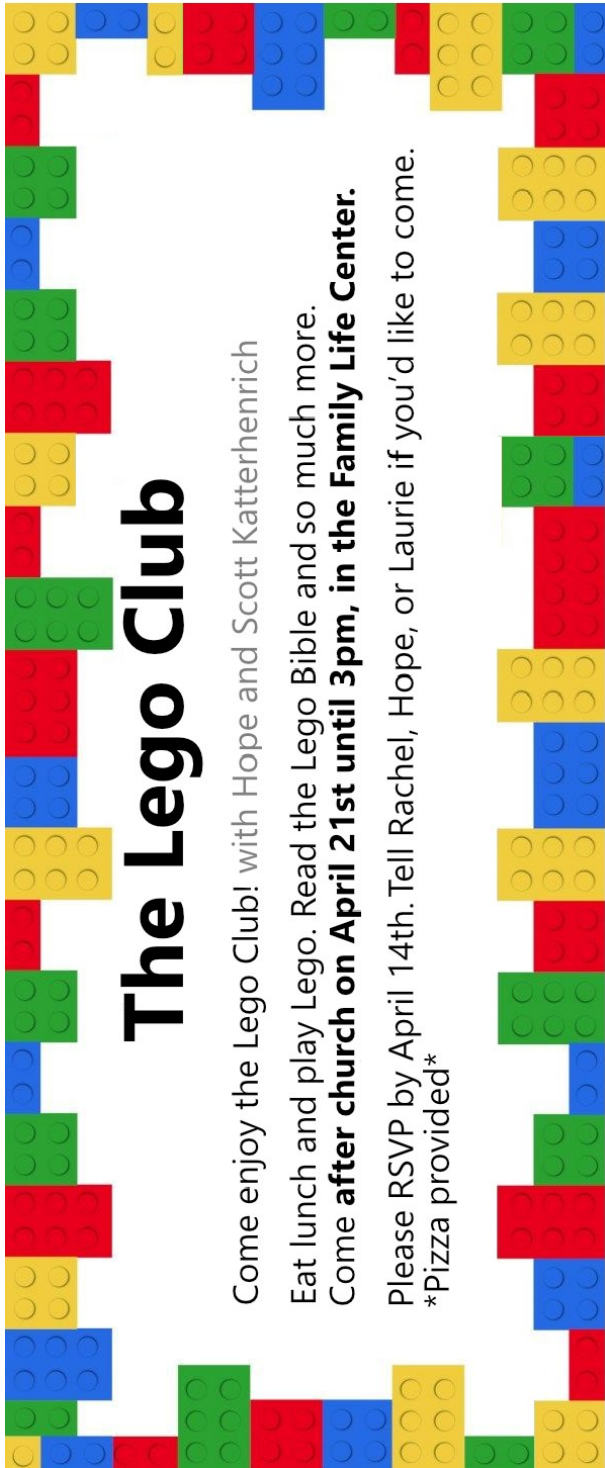
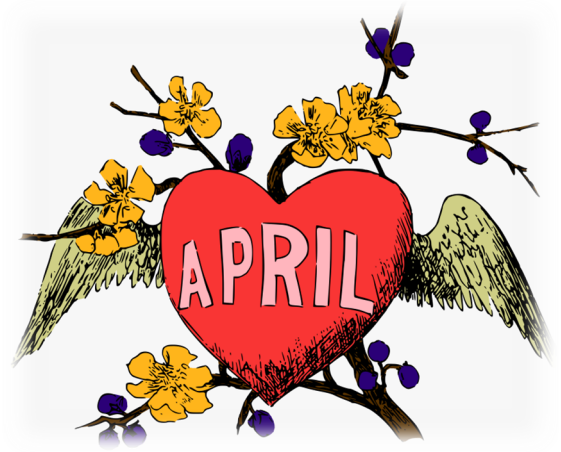
RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

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!



The Lego Club

Come enjoy the Lego Club! with Hope and Scott Katterhenrich
Eat lunch and play Lego. Read the Lego Bible and so much more.
Come **after church on April 21st until 3pm, in the Family Life Center.**
Please RSVP by April 14th. Tell Rachel, Hope, or Laurie if you'd like to come.
Pizza provided

GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S

We are very grateful for your generous and continued financial support of our ministries!

How to give to St. John's:

1. Give during worship services.
2. Mail your offering to the church – 3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio 43123.
3. Send through your financial institution – they will send a check directly to the church on your behalf.
4. Visit St. John's website – www.stjohnsgc.org. Online giving is available through Vanco Services, and we have partnered with them for more than 20 years. It is secure and safe.
5. Through the Vanco Mobile (formerly GivePlus) app available from Apple or Google – again a partnership between the church and Vanco Services. Set up a profile one time, and set up a recurring gift, or give when you want to. Once your profile is set up, giving is a one-touch process.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive
TUESDAY, APRIL 23 from 12pm to 6pm
in the Family Life Center.**

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

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



LEGO CLUB! Pizza and lots of Lego Fun led by Hope and Scott Katterhenrich. Meeting for the first time on Sunday, April 21st, in the FLC, after church until 3pm. Please RSVP by April 14th with Hope, Scott, or Laurie Pecuch. We want to be ready for you!

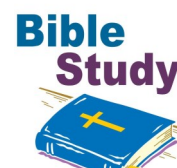
THE SUMMER 2024 BROCHURE is available now! We have summer faith experiences for families, children and youth. Please kindly turn in your RSVP / INTEREST FORM or email it to lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org by May 1st. Doing so helps with our planning and sending you more details and reminders!

Children's Choir meets on Thursdays, 5—5:30pm in the chapel. See Kate Shrum for more details!

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. Each group enjoys gym time, a meal with friends, crafts, and an active learning Bible lesson. **OUR LAST NIGHT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IS APRIL 25th.**

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. **OUR LAST NIGHT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IS MAY 1st.**

High School IQA Bible Study is studying the book of Ephesians. 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!

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!

Mexico Musings

Wow. Words can't suffice to relate this experience, but I shall strive to make them tell a story. I signed up for this trip with some trepidation, as my previous experiences had never focused solely on children. Instead, they gravitated toward construction and humanitarian or disaster relief efforts. Working with children isn't abnormal, but working with children in a foreign country with a language barrier is a little more uncomfortable. My only fear was that my lack of Spanish would cause the children to feel unheard or ignored.

I was highly grateful for the fluent team members and staff, as well as the understanding exhibited by my niños. Julio and Norman were patient with me and showed little frustration when translating my words. The only other gift that surpassed this was seeing both Julio and Norman smile. That, as well as seeing how they interacted with their "family." Both boys exhibited so much compassion and empathy. My favorite memory with them was at the beach as we surfed the waves. God gave us a moment to just "be" and not to think about anything else.

Even though it was a sunny and cloudless Saturday, it was raining from my eyes. It's so hard to let go and trust in God about the future of those kids. But that's what faith is. Our lives are short, but God's love is infinite. Through Him, all things are possible.

"No reserve. No retreat. No regrets."

~ William Borden.

Be glorious.

¡Gloria a Dios!

Evan Beachler

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.



(614) 539-7427
4155 Parkway Centre Dr
Grove City, Ohio



FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

St. John's Lutheran Church

Mexico Missions Teams

Tuesday, April 9

3pm – 9pm

10%
DONATION NIGHT

Support **St. John's Lutheran Church** by presenting this flyer to the Grove City location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **St. John's Lutheran Church!**



Connect your KROGER card with the COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM.

Go to <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!



Graduation 2024

***The Graduation season is rapidly approaching and we like to recognize those in our congregation who may be finishing their degrees. If you would like to recognize your post-high graduate, please send the following information **student's name, name of school, degree and major**, to Diana Imbrock at dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org to be placed in the bulletins and Eagle.

*****The congregation** is invited to the **GRADUATION BLESSING RECEPTION**, Sunday, May 5th from 9:30 to 10:30 in the FLC. Visit with our graduating seniors to see where they will be going next. Students will be available for prayers, good wishes and hugs!!! Come and bless our graduates and share a light celebratory breakfast with us. We will also be recognizing our students in each of the 11:00 services that day. What a great time to encourage those in our faith webs!



Early Church History of St. John's

Prepared by Hunter Thompson



After discussing with the president of the synod, a call was extended to Dr. L. H. Schuh, who was currently serving as president at Capital University. He eagerly accepted the opportunity to return to working in a congregation. On the first Sunday of July in 1912, he was officially installed as the pastor of St. John's. Utilizing his talents, he immediately set to work reorganizing the Sunday School, which was relocated from the old parish building to the church in order to accommodate more students. He also established a Bible class taught in German. However, a recurring issue within the church resurfaced—the younger generation was not interested in attending services conducted in German, as they struggled to understand the

language. Additionally, choir members were reluctant to sing in German as the words held no meaning for them. In response, Dr. Schuh introduced English preaching, resulting in a significant increase in attendance and growth of the congregation. In January, he also organized the Ladies Aid Society with 14 charter members, whose efforts proved invaluable in overcoming financial obstacles faced by the church. During this time, a new church constitution was adopted and the envelope system was implemented for the first time in the church's financial work. The installation of electricity provided lighting and a motor for the organ. As the pastor's family grew, a larger parsonage was needed and was subsequently built. However, in December of 1915, Dr. Schuh received a call to a church in Toledo. Despite the turmoil within the church he was being called to, the synod pressured him to accept the call. In January of 1915, Dr. Schuh preached his farewell sermon to St. John's. Emmanuel Poppen graduated from Capital University's seminary at the young age of 20, earning him the nickname "The Boy Preacher." As a condition for accepting the call to John's, Pastor Poppen requested to remain with his current congregation until after Easter, which was approximately four months. During this time, Dr. R. S. H. Lenski of Capital University served as a supply pastor. In the short period that Dr. Lenski was in charge, Sunday School attendance reached a record high of 260. Pastor Poppen was officially installed as the pastor of St. John's on the third Sunday of April in 1915. Within the first week of his arrival, the church organist resigned and Mrs. Poppen was asked to take over the role. In 1917, the church underwent renovations and redecoration, costing a total of \$2,500. As part of the improvements, the organ and choir loft were relocated from the balcony to the west transept.

To Be Continued.....

OWLS EVENT—APRIL 19, 2024

Deputy Laura Stahr of the Franklin County Sherriff's Office will be our guest speaker this month. While her primary duties involve teaching the D.A.R.E. program to fifth grade students in various elementary schools within Franklin County, she does provide safety talks on a variety of topics to all age groups. In 2008, she was one of four deputies who helped establish the Rape Aggression Defense Program at the Sheriff's Office. The R.A.D. Systems is an international program which is a women's only self-defense program.



Deputy Stahr will be presenting the Personal Safety Program. She will share risk reduction strategies for when you're at home, in your car or going through your daily routine. Three elements must be in place for any type of crime to occur. There is a victim, an assailant and an opportunity. By learning these safety strategies, you will remove the opportunity for an assailant to make you their next victim. These basic tips and strategies can help reduce your odds of becoming a victim of a crime.

Deputy Stahr is not a stranger to St. John's. Laura and her two young daughters attended church here a few years ago. Mark your calendars to join us!

The OWLS will provide fried chicken 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 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!



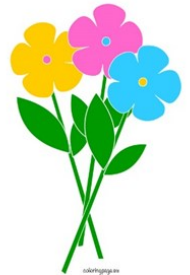
PRE-ORDER MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Deadline: Sunday, May 5th

Happy Mother's Day

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____



Please mark item(s) you would like to order.

_____ \$30 A colorful spring mix of fresh flowers, arranged in a basket.

_____ \$30 A colorful spring mix of fresh flowers, arranged in a vase.

_____ \$25 Wrapped assortment of colorful fresh flowers to put in your favorite vase.

_____ \$12 One Blooming flower in a basket with bow, to enjoy indoors or out.

_____ \$20 Two Blooming flowers in a tin, with bow.

_____ \$45 Garden mixed pot, assorted blooming annuals come in a 10-inch pot, ready to set on your porch.

Checks made out to: "St. John's Lutheran"

*For specialty orders and delivery within the Grove City area,
call Rita Bausch at 614-701-8902 and be sure to mention "St. John's Missions".*

Thanks for supporting missions!



Would you like to learn the art of hand quilting? We have chairs and friendship waiting for you. Hand quilting results in an heirloom generations will cherish.

The Quilters need twin to king-sized, light colored, flat sheets to use as fillers for our quilts. These sheets do not have to be perfect as they will not be seen when the quilts are completed. We do not use fitted sheets. Please place your donations in the Quilters' cabinet in the Link. Thank you.

Would you like to make a Christmas quilt? We have a large assortment of adult-themed Christmas material. You may select material to cut into squares for a charity quilt. Or, maybe you would like to make a 36"x45" Christmas quilt for your loved one for \$20.00 for the cost of the material.

In the fall, we will start collecting Beanie Babies and other small, soft, plush animals for the Christmas bags for the children at the Grove City food pantry. Now would be a good time to sort through your collection and put aside those you feel you can part with for the Christmas hags. Thank you for giving to the children who sometimes receive very little for Christmas.

The Quilters are a small group who meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm in rooms 103-104. We are neither clock watchers nor time-card punchers, so come in anytime and leave early. We eat our packed lunches around 11:30am. The quilts we make are for the Christmas sale, Bed Brigade, charities or other requests. We hand quilt on commission, also. If you wish to be involved with the making of the quilts, there are many different stages you may choose to do. We need to choose the material, cut the squares, arrange the squares into a quilt, sew the squares together, tie the layers together, measure and cut the edges, and sew the bindings and hems. Another option is after selecting your material, you may finish the quilt at home. All materials are provided.

Lord, please show me how to serve You by helping other. Amen



Mother's Day Bouquets!

Happy Mother's Day

Be sure to get the flowers you want for that special mom, aunt, grandma, or person in your faith web. There is a beautiful selection below that you can pre-order.



The drive-up sale will be on Mother's Day weekend, May 11th and 12th, before and after all worship services, at the Shelter House. Pull up, pick out your flowers, and we'll bring them to your car! We will have single carnations for \$1 each, as well as some of the arrangements listed below on the pre-order form. There will be a limited number of these flowers, so it's best to pre-order to ensure you get flowers for that special lady.

To preorder, simply fill out the pre-order form below and drop it off in the church office or place it in the offering plate. **The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, May 5th.** You can also email your order to dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org by noon on Sunday, May 5th.

You can drive up and pick up your pre-ordered flowers at the Shelter House on Mother's Day weekend, before and after all worship services.

Need your flowers BEFORE Mother's Day weekend OR would like to order something special? For specialty orders or delivery, call Rita Bausch at 614-701-8902 and mention "St. John's Missions" when you order. Rita is a member of St. John's and owner of Prairie Flowers and Gifts. She is partnering with us on this sale. *Thank you Rita!*

Chris Cakes Thank you! Thank you, thank you! All who came for fun and fellowship to the Chris Cakes Pancake Dinner for Mexico Missions! Over \$650.00 was raised to send the Mexico Family to be the hands and feet of Jesus this summer. We are very appreciative of your continued support. May God continue to shower His grace and love on you all!



“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, and Devar.

“Thank you to Pastor Patti for prayers and visiting me in the hospital. I'd like to thank my church family for praying and thinking of me while I went through surgery.” ~ Judy Graessle.

“Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thank you very much for the beautiful shawls. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness during this difficult time. The Prayer Shawls will provide comfort to us! Thank you again,” ~ Suzie Brace and family, Rob McNicol and family, Amy Dieckhoner and family, and Bill McNicol.

WELCOME
new members

MEMBERSHIP CLASS and NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION IN APRIL!

**A Membership Class will be held at
12:15pm on Sunday, April 14th.**

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 21st**. 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.

St. John's Lutheran Church to Host OSU Music Concert



St. John's Lutheran Church is presenting various Ohio State University musical ensembles in an upcoming concert. The concert will take place in the St. John's Sanctuary, 3220 Columbus Street, Grove City at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. The public is invited. A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested to help defray expenses.

The program will feature faculty and students in chamber works. The woodwind and reed quintets will perform works by Biedenbender and Cambini. A brass ensemble under the direction of Russ Mikkelson, Director of OSU Bands, will perform Dvorak's Serenade in D Minor and Dances of the French Renaissance. OSU Professors Caroline Hartig, Mark Rudoff, and Ed Bak will perform Brahms' Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano. Hartig is a native of Grove City and a member of St. John's.

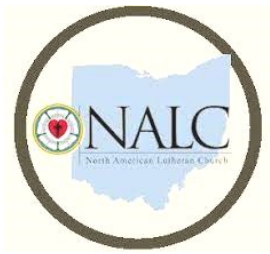
This concert will feature some of the best musicians in Central Ohio. You won't want to miss this showcase of musical talent.

The concert is part of a year-long celebration of St. John's 175th anniversary. A reception in the FLC will follow the concert.



NALC

North American Lutheran Church



The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) OHIO MISSION REGION (OMR) MISSION EVENT and ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Saint John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Grove City.

Who's invited? Every pastor and member of our North American Lutheran Church congregations in Ohio!

This annual gathering brings together members and pastors not just to transact the business we do together in our Region (the state of Ohio) and our five mission districts (North West, North East, Southeast, North Central, and Southwest Ohio), but also is a time to worship together, fellowship together, learn together, pray together, and plan together.

This year the focus of **Mission Event on Friday, May 3 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** will be on **Senior Adult Ministry**, from ministering to seniors and their families to empowering senior adults to share the Gospel of Jesus with others.

Our keynote speaker will be **Pastor Brad Hales**, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpepper, Virginia. Pastor Hales, a native of northwest Ohio, is **Director of Church Planting and Aging Ministries for the North American Lutheran Church**. He is also the author of the recently published *Reviving the Aging Church: A Practical Guide*.

Pastor Hales has practical experience, having been used by the Holy Spirit to shepherd the spiritual and numerical growth of the congregation he serves through ministries to and with senior adults. On Friday, May 3, he'll provide practical advice based on his experiences. There will be a Q-and-A session and an opportunity to brainstorm, share, and pray with others from throughout Ohio.

On **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00- 5:00**, we'll focus on **Evangelism and Church Planting**, hear reports from the North American Lutheran Church, our region, and our districts, and elect members of our district and regional executive councils. We will also worship together. This event is always worth attending, an inspiring time. Please plan to attend!

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas: *it is one of the privileges of the Mayor to recognize and honor significant occasions within our community; and*

WHEREAS: St. John's Lutheran Church was established in 1849 and is celebrating its 175th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS: local pioneers both English and German speaking had joined together to form St. John's Lutheran Church separating from the Highland Mission; and

WHEREAS: St. John's first pastor, Rev. R. K. Davis had arrived from Fairfield County in 1846 with Mr. William Foster Breck, founder of Grove City. Additionally, Jacob Harsh, George Weygandt, August Hoepfner and Daniel Smith served as the first officers; and.

WHEREAS: in 1853 a new church structure was built on land donated by William and Elizabeth Breck located at Arbutus and Columbus Street. The building was dedicated in early 1854 and served the congregation for the next 35 years. In 1889 a new church building was dedicated in its present location and today we celebrate the completion of the north entrance expansion and accessibility project; and

WHEREAS: St. John's Lutheran Church has served a vital role in Grove City and surrounding communities for 175 years through many ministries sharing God's grace and unending love.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, do hereby recognize and honor the founders and members of St. John's Lutheran Church for working faithfully and giving generously over the last 175 years and do hereby proclaim 2024 as

"ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH YEAR"



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Grove City, Ohio to be affixed this 3rd day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Richard L. "Ike" Stage
Richard L. "Ike" Stage, Mayor

Letter from the Intern

One of the things I have noticed about this congregation is the thriving ministry to youth and children. I have known churches who *want* to have the focus on kids that St. John's has, but it is rare to find such a program running smoothly and for so many church members to contribute time, effort, and prayer to it. It has been a blessing to see and experience to many people passing on the faith to younger generations.

It reminds me of Deuteronomy 6, in which the LORD—through Moses—tells all of Israel to love God with all they have and to pass on that love and obedience to future generations. Obedience to this command is most clearly seen in the rituals of the Jewish Passover meal (the Seder).

For the last 3,000 years (give or take) Jewish elders have sat down at tables on the first night of Passover, looked into the eyes of the children in the room, and told the story of God rescuing *them* from slavery in Egypt. Whether in 1st century Jerusalem or 21st century Brooklyn, this tale of miracles and freedom, death and redemption is woven into the lives of each member of the meal. Each person who listens is woven into this ancient story, as well.

Recently, Pastor Patti allowed me to shadow her during a funeral. In her sermon, Pastor Patti spoke of the departed person and grief—but also of comfort, hope, and God's promises. Afterward, she explained to me how our stories are woven into God's story. That that's what she does with funeral sermons... She weaves that person's story into God's story.

During Holy Week, we Christians do the same thing. We tell the story of the Messiah riding into Jerusalem, and we shout out "Hosanna!" We sit quietly on Thursday and listen to Christ's words and commands and eat a meal with him. On Friday we hear Jesus' cry from the cross: "*it is finished...*" and leave in silence—just as he bowed his head and was silent. On Easter morning, we hear the unbelievable news that Jesus is risen—just as the women at the tomb reported!

Our story becomes a part of *the* Story... The Story of God bringing back his rebellious creatures and making whole his broken people. This is the story the Bible tells from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. It is the story into which we are swept up each Sunday: we confess and are forgiven. God speaks and we listen. We pray and offer up our gifts. We receive the bread and wine—Christ himself—which is a meal of miracles and freedom, death and redemption.

May we continue to be wrapped up in God's Story of redemption every day. May we keep telling this story to everyone among us— young and old. And may we celebrate these next weeks as though the risen Christ himself is among us, because—after all—he is!

Alleluia, He is Risen!

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Join us for the next meetings on **Saturday, April 14 at 9am** and **Tuesday, April 23 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 sjersild@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 217-255-2118
Patricia A. Morlock, Assoc. Pastor pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 740-405-1548
Dale Stanley, Intern dstanley@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
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Gini Rogers Interim Youth Director, ginidrogers@gmail.com	614-875-2314
David Shrum Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Jamie Wise, Recorder jwise@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Karen Whyte, Librarian barnowl@iwaynet.net	614-878-9392

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

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

the family and friends of **Marlene Cress**,
mother of Doug Cress, who passed away
on March 7, 2024.

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



*Congratulations to
Brian and Amanda Rawson
for the baptism of their daughter,
Vivian, on Sunday, March 17th, 2024.*

**THE QUARTERLY
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
will follow the 4pm service in the Sanctuary
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024.
Please plan to attend.

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

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 MAY 2024
Eagle is APRIL 10TH.**

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



The Eagle

April 2024

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

Letter from the Associate Pastor



My dear friends,

Spring has sprung! It's a time when the days lengthen. For those in farm country, it's a time for doing all the things we need to do to prepare the ground to bring a bountiful harvest. The ground is cleared of debris from last year's crop, the ground is tilled, problems dealt with, and seeds are planted, all awaiting the arising of new crops, new life.

It's not a great leap to go from agriculture to using this season to prepare the hard ground of our hearts for the new life we celebrated at Easter. Therefore, let us continue to pray, examine, repent, AND PLANT NEW SEEDS!!! This last part is often forgotten, but if we want to see growth, something has to die (seeds, and Jesus on the cross) so that there can be new life.

What kind of seeds, if any, are you planting? They can be seeds of love, placed in the heart of a person who is hurting. They can be seeds of prayer, for those who need God's grace most, for the sick, for the sorrowing. They can be seeds of personal spiritual growth, reading a devotional, a book, or getting involved in a Bible study. These seeds can be deliberately starting and maintaining a new friendship.

Seeds of many kinds can produce wonderful fruit, bringing real joy to our lives and carrying a witness of God's presence and love into the world. That's a great way to think of the daily life of the church, I think.

The above picture reminds me that a seed planted over 175 years ago, which continues to bring wonderful fruit, is our wonderful congregation. Lives continue to be touched — in countless ways every day! The Word continues to be shared. Children are loved. Families are brought closer to Christ. Seeds planted, a harvest is brought in. This picture was taken the Easter Sunday shortly after Covid shut everything down. It served as a reminder to me that the Body of Christ was alive and well in the midst of a pandemic. The gentleman who shot this picture just sent it to me this week. What a blessed gift as we prepare to celebrate all that God has done in and through His people here at St. John's.

During this Springtime, and Eastertide, we can prepare, plant, and be mindful of what has been planted within us. Also, we give thanks for the ministries God has given us here at St. John's and look forward to what God has in store for us as we plan and prepare for the next planting and harvesting of ministries here.

May this Spring be a time of preparing our hearts and minds for the bearing of new fruit, in Christ.

Looking Forward in Faith, Pastor Patti