

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

DATED MATERIALS

MAY 2024

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

MAY 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

| SUNDAY | | MONDAY | | TUESDAY | | WEDS. | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  | | 5 Traditional Worship 8:15am GRADUATE BLESSING 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm | | 6 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Altar Guild 1pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm | | 7 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning Mtg. 11:30am GriefShare 2pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm | | 1 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm | | 2 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm | | 3 OHIO MISSION REGION CONVOCAATION Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm | | 4 OHIO MISSION REGION CONVOCAATION Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm | |
| | | 12 MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am 175th SANCTUARY ANNIVERSARY COMBINED WORSHIP 11am Adult Basketball 5pm | | 13 Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6:30pm Finance Team 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm | | 14 Quilters 9:30am GriefShare 2pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm | | 15 Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm | | 16 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm | | 17 Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm | | 18 Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm | |
| 19 Traditional Worship 8:15am CONFIRMATION FAITH CELEBRATION 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am The Lego Club 12:30pm Private Event 12:30pm Adult Basketball 5pm Saddles n Such 4-H 6pm | | 20 Lunchtime AA 12pm Council 7pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm | | 21 Quilters 9:30am GriefShare 2pm Internship Team Mtg. 6pm Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm | | 22 Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm | | 23 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Small Group 9:30am Children's Choir 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Private Event 6:30pm | | 24 Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm | | 25 Private Event Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm | | | |
| 26 Trad. Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Small Group 10am Traditional Worship 11am Contemporary Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm | | 27 Lunchtime AA 12pm Small Group 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm | | 28 Quilters 9:30am GriefShare 2pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm | | 29 Small Group 1:30pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm | | 30 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 9:30am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm | | 31 Bulletin Team 10:30am Men's Chorale 4pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm | | | | | |



*Congratulations to
David and Sky Eckel
on the birth of their son.
Samuel was born on
April 4, 2024.
Samuel is welcomed by his
brother, David.*



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!



Please join us for a:

MOTHER'S DAY COMBINED SINGLE SERVICE
MAY 12TH 11:00AM

Attention All! On Mother's Day weekend there will be only ONE worship service at St. John's:

11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 12th, in the Main Sanctuary.

This combined service is to commemorate the 1888 dedication of the old St. John's sanctuary which happened on May 12th, 1888.

This worship will include trumpets, special music from several of our singing groups, a children's message, children's church, and combined music from our traditional and contemporary services.

COME AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL HIS GIFTS AT THIS SPECIAL SERVICE!



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



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!

See Summer 2024 opportunities below!

Grades reflect current grade.

SUMMER FAMILY FAITH BAG (Families and ages 3—12) Faith activities (supplies included) to do at home or on the go. The activities best fit families with children ages 3 – 12, but they can be adapted to other ages. Available June 9—13 for pick-up or you can request delivery at another time.

A JOYFUL PAUSE (Families) Join us when you can and leave when you have to. Choose what you'd like to do (games, legos, free play, arts and crafts) or just visit with others. A light meal will be served around 11am and 6:30pm. We will meet the third Thursday of the month on June 20, July 18, and August 15. Come between 9am and noon and/or 5:30—8:30pm.

GRADES 4—6 SUMMER FUN! Each evening will be full of fun, faith, and friendship! Snacks included, of course! Join us on Sunday, June 30, July 28, and August 11, 6:30—8:30pm.

GRADES 4—6 FAITH IN ACTION We will be putting our faith into action and making a difference. Serving is important and we need you to do it! Join us July 8-11, Monday—Thursday, from 5:30—8:30pm. Dinner included. We will have a variety of service experiences throughout the week. Come make a difference for Jesus' sake!

GRADES 7-12 FAITH IN ACTION You will find purpose, belonging, and even a sense of Christian identity when you serve and help others. Come serve with us July 8-11 (Monday through Thursday) from 11am—3pm. Lunch is included.

GRADES 7—12 CATCH THE VISION! June 2 through August 25, during the Sunday School hour meet with us in the confirmation room, catch a vision and learn the answer to the questions "Who am I?", "Where do I belong?" and "How can I make a difference?"

GRADES 7—12 FAITH and FRIENDS BARBECUES This is an off-site event that is guaranteed to be amazing! Backyard games, BBQ, and bonfires galore! Join us Saturdays, June 8, July 13, and August 10 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Brandon and Gini Rogers's house. Parental permission slip required.

GRADES 7—12 JUST FOR YOU! A time just for you! Paint Night, Game Night, Prayer Room, Food, Friends, and more! Join us on Wednesdays, June 19, July 17, and August 14 from 6 to 9pm.

GRADES 7—12 TEEN HELPERS FOR VBS Vacation Bible School will be held June 24—27, 9am to noon. Training to be a teen helper is Sunday, June 23, 9:30—10:30am. The theme this year is "Let's Start the Party, Celebrate the Good News!"



Mexico Musings

There are few people on this planet we get to walk through all of life with, most we simply get to walk alongside for a season. I've learned that doesn't mean they are any less meaningful. I was blessed to return to the Mexico Mission Trip this year after not going for eight years – this time with my sweet husband for his first time. I was paired with two beautiful girls – one named Estefania, who turned seven during the week, and Valeria, who is 12 years old. My favorite memory with Valeria was how engaged she was when we were memorizing the Bible verse of the week, II Timothy 3:16. She was committed to learning it, repeating it over and over. She was such an active participant in writing our team song about the verse, too. Valeria has a beautiful full smile and bright eyes. She is hungry for God's love and I know He has big plans for this beautiful daughter of His. Estefania was much more shy and timid. I heard that when she came to the orphanage, she didn't speak and wouldn't make eye contact with anyone. Throughout the week I asked God how to best love her. I trusted that God had placed her with me for a reason, so I decided to be myself and love her just like I would love my own nieces. Progress was a little slow at first; Estefania sat out of most activities, however on Wednesday, the group did a muddy, quite intense, obstacle course. Estefania was a definite no...until she decided otherwise, much to my delight! We did the course twice together! Then Friday morning this nugget decided she wanted to get in the big-kid pool. As she clung to me so tightly at first, and then eventually climbed around the perimeter of the pool hanging onto the sides, her eyes always looked to make sure I wasn't far. Her smile and confidence grew and grew while we were in that pool. All the while, I was cheering her on, telling her how brave and grown up she was. Her favorite part was standing on her tippy toes, arms spread wide, huge smile, with the water just below her mouth, saying, "Estoy parada!" ("I'm standing!") over and over again. Every time I made it a bigger deal than the time before.

I feel extremely grateful that God chose me to cross paths with and love on these two little ones for a week. I feel greedy, wishing I had more than 6 days with them, but I know now I need to trust God even more. He will continue to be their all loving, all powerful Father.

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!" - 1 John 3:1*

*"Everything in the Scriptures is God's word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people
and for correcting them and showing them how to live." - II Timothy 3:16*

¡Gloria a Dios!
Laura Carpenter

Since this was my first trip with the Mexico Mission Family, I didn't know what to expect. I tried to remain open-minded and open-hearted about this experience and see what God had in store. As the children arrived, I began to scope out the faces and observe the actions to get a better feel for what might lay ahead. When the dust settled after the niños' assignments, I was paired with two young boys, Jorge, a quiet and reserved boy, and Marcos, who definitely fit the profile of the class clown. As the week went on, there were moments of great joy and happiness, with some anguish and defeat mixed in. There were team building competitions as well as lessons about Jesus' love and compassion toward us. With the completion of each event and teaching time, it became more apparent what these kids needed: love, attention, and someone to show them they cared. The three of us bonded over art. Jorge was an absolute poet with his words as well as making crafts. Marcos was amazing at drawing and could draw any superhero completely from memory. We spent a few hours on the last day doing just that – drawing one superhero after another together. I believe that both of these young men are going to be great, and we prayed over each of them on our last day together. Their progression through the week was great to watch. Jorge is a very thoughtful boy who feels deeply and is always processing the things he learns. Marcos is not bashful in the least bit, and although he spoke out, at the wrong moments sometimes, he showed the characteristics of a great leader and all the kids listened to him. I wish I could see how these young men turn out, but I pray God's protection and guidance for them always. Thank you to the St. John's community for making this opportunity possible.

¡Gloria a Dios!
Matt Carpenter

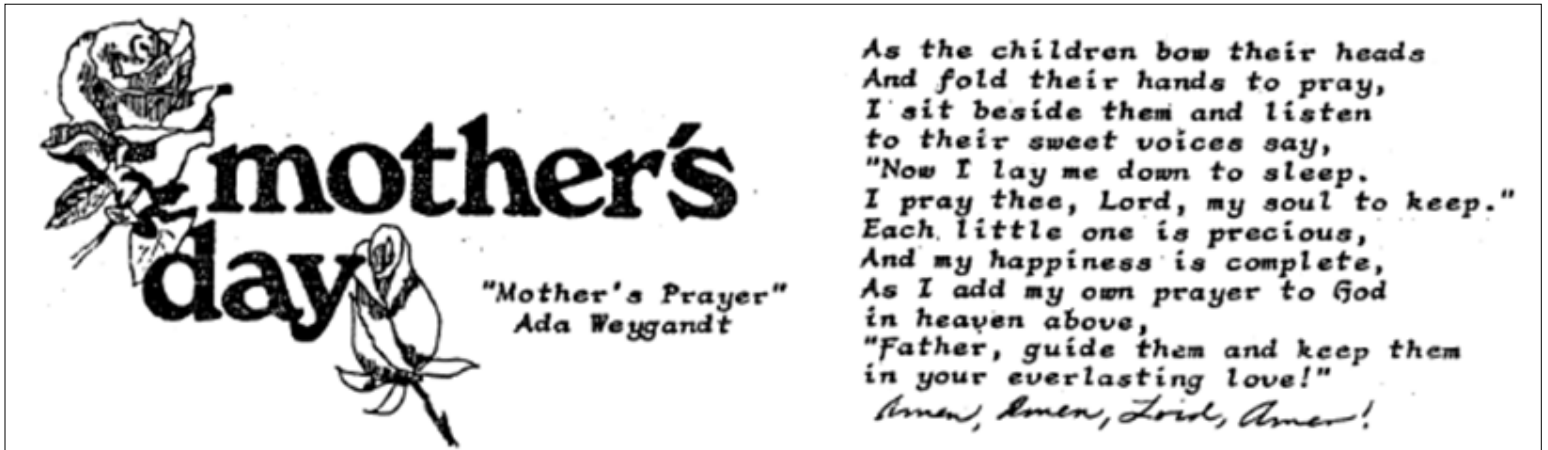


Thank you for continuing to pray for and support Missions!

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!

**LAST DAY TO HOLD
YOUR SPOT FOR THE
MEXICO MISSION 2024
IS SUNDAY MAY 5th.**

Mission dates are July 19th through July 29th, 2024.
Contact Diana Imbrock with questions or to sign up.



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!*

Mother's Day



A MOTHER

A Mother gets up at night with a sick child,
Mops up spilled milk, trying not to get "riled",
Teaches, scolds and forgives, trying to understand,
Plans and dreams, holding tight to little hands.
She cleans up mud and broken pieces of glass,
Attends "back-to-school" night and sits in a class.
She laughs and cries, and sometimes plays,
Feeds puppies and kittens, and helps in a hundred ways
But most of all a Mother is someone who loves,
Sending up prayers for her child to God above!

Ada Weygandt



PRE-ORDER MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Deadline: Sunday, May 5th

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!*



Quilters

Want to check us out? We always welcome visitors. If you are unable to come in weekly, please come in just once in a while. You may visit as long as you wish. If you want to visit for a couple of hours, bring your lunch. There are boxes of material divided by color, just waiting for you to choose and make a quilt for any charity. If you are interested in making an adult-themed Christmas quilt, we have a big box of material. Or maybe, just come in, join in the conversations and sit for a while. Your visit is always welcome. Remember, a visit is not a commitment.

We have empty chairs just waiting for you at the quilting frame if you are interested in learning to hand quilt.

Want to play with scissors? We need someone interested in cutting stamps for our Wounded Soldier Project. The job is a sitting-and-working-at-your-own-pace job where you trim to a 1/4" around the stamps.

The Quilters welcome you to come and visit. We meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm or thereabouts.

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to interest of others."
Philippians 2:4*

OWLS EVENT—MAY 17, 2024

As we grow older, we hear more and more about "independent living, assisted living, and in-home health care". Everyone has unique needs that need to be met in order to continue to live safely at home. Long term health care is a topic most of us don't want to think about let alone talk about but, unfortunately, it could be in our future or a loved one's.

Our program in May will include a speaker representing Comfort Keepers whose goal is to provide the best in-home caregiving services to aging seniors who wish to maintain their independence. At a time when seniors feel as if their independence is slipping away, Comfort Keepers mission is to provide high quality in-home caregiving to help seniors continue living their independent lifestyle. Experienced caregivers can help with everything from light housekeeping and grooming, to meal preparation, prescription reminders and running errands. We hope you will plan to join us and hear much more about them. Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend!



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.

Hope to see you there!

HYMNS FOR SUMMER

The music ministry at St. John's is again giving worshippers the opportunity to suggest hymns for the traditional services during the summer. So, if you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing during the summer, now is the time to make your suggestion.

There is a hymn suggestion box located near the North Entrance of the Sanctuary. Just take one of the sheets on top of the box, write the name of the hymn on it, and drop it in the box.

The box will be there through the end of May. We will try to use as many of those suggestions as we can.

Thank you,
Mark Meuser
Music Director.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 3-18! SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP EVENT!

On Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th, St. John's will be having a single special worship service in the main Sanctuary at 11:00 am.

We are asking all of you who have children ages 3-18 to bring your kids (or encourage them to come) to the **main Sanctuary** at **10:40** that morning, so we can instruct them how to participate in a simple, but fun and powerful worship activity. We hope that your children will be able to participate!

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.

*****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!

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS!

The following six St. John's confirmation students will publicly affirm their baptism at worship on May 19th:

Corban Allman
Brayden Gottshall
Mackenzie Norman

Caleb Ball
Layla Greer
Addison White

For the past two years these students have been engaged in a regular discipline of prayer, bible study, classroom discussion and service activities. We should be very proud of them (and their parents) for their work and commitment! Please keep our confirmands in your prayers, that they will continue to build their lives on the Rock, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

CONFIRMATION FAITH CELEBRATION: MAY 19TH

Come share your support and encouragement with our confirmation students as they share their faith in Christ in a very special way between 9:30 and 10:30 am in the Family Life Center on Sunday, May 19th.

Smoothies and cake will be provided!

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

The following people were formally received into membership at St. John's during the 11:00am traditional service:

Mike and Barbara Cunningham
Beth Hazel
Linda Lewis
Brett McCoy
Sharon McGuire
Bill Wickham

We give thanks to God for bringing these new members into our fellowship, and ask God's blessings upon them as they continue their walk of faith at St. John's!

WELCOME
new members

Early Church History of St. John's

Prepared by Hunter Thompson



A committee of the Ladies' Aid Society and the Sunday School kept in touch with St. John's family during World War 1. After the soldiers returned home, a celebration was held with a parade, a program, and a banquet at the church. Sadly, we had to add one gold star to our flag in memory of George Gramlich, who became a fatality during the war. Many Lutheran congregations and their pastors, notably those that still had German services like St. John's, were often under suspicion during the war. It was an honor for St. John's to receive two letters of commendation to Pastor Poppen from the Treasury Department because it had liberally supported the Liberty Loan and War Savings Campaigns. By 1920, the need was great for additional space for worship, to expand the Sunday School, and add more space for social gatherings. St. John's had 675 communicant members and 450 in Sunday School. Work began on building a new, larger parish house. Charles Miller and John Haenszel superintended the building of the new parish, doing work without financial compensation. The new building was located on the east side of the original church and contained a full basement with both a kitchen and a dining room, a larger parlor, many small classrooms, and a larger overflow opening in the east transept directly into the church. The total cost was \$32,000, which was the most expensive single project so far at St. John's. On September 14, 1924, the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary with special festival services and meetings, ending with the meeting of the Synod Western District at St. John's. A group picture was taken of the entire congregation to commemorate this occasion. A revised church constitution was adopted in 1925. One of the main features is giving women the right to vote on congregational issues. A new Moeller electric action pipe organ was purchased and installed without soliciting pledges. All of the subscriptions were made voluntarily, led by the Ladies' Aid Society, with a commitment of \$3,000. The cost of the organ was \$6,955.14, but with added electrical and lumber costs, the final sum came out to be \$9,829.49. 1925 saw the introduction of the new monthly parish paper, *The Lutheran Messenger*, written and edited by Pastor Poppen with Edward Eyeran serving as the circulation manager. The following year, more of the basement was excavated from under the front of the church. Pastor Poppen and his wife were important in establishing many groups throughout their ministry years at St. John's. The Altar Guild had its very beginning in November of 1913, when two women from the Ladies' Aid Society were chosen to furnish flowers for the altar and for the sick. In April of 1916, another member was added, and the group officially became the Altar Guild. Their job was to care for the altar furnishing at all times, especially at communion; to help with the supplies for the communion service; to keep at hand a fresh supply of fresh candles; to arrange flowers at the altar for every service; and to distribute the flowers after service to the ill. This committee of three—Mrs. Mary Mayer, Miss Emma Keller, and Miss Flora Voeller—served until the adoption of the individual communion service, which was increased to four. Over the years, the Altar Guild has multiplied in size. Over the years, many altar cloths and paraments have been added to the collection. The care and preservation of these also fall to the guild. In late 1987, Viola Davis assumed the leadership of the guild from Hulda Rader, who retired after many years of service.

To Be Continued.....



**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!

PEPPERMINT PATTIES by Laurie Pecuch

Peppermint patties make a sound. They do. I heard my first peppermint pattie while sitting with a friend in a coffee shop. With a mischievous grin on her face, she opened the candy wrapper, broke the peppermint pattie in half and said, "Do you hear that?" "Hear what?" was my reply. Then she broke the candy closer to my ear and I heard "Pshhh." Sure enough, there was a sound.

Weeks later, another friend of mine started going to her parents' house to care for her mom who was very ill. She would spend the week caring for her mom and then drive home for the weekends to be with her family. It was a very difficult time. When she was home, we would often go into the sanctuary and pray for her mom.

One evening in the sanctuary, when this friend's heart was heavy with grief, the good Lord reminded me of the sound of the peppermint pattie. I stood about five feet from her, unwrapped the candy, and broke it in half. "Did you hear that?", I asked. Like my first time, she didn't hear it. So, I walked over and said, "This, listen to this." And I gently broke the candy again near her ear. "Pshhh." "That," I said, "is the sound of heaven."

I went on to explain to her that I believe we experience foretastes of heaven here on earth; in a caring embrace, in a beautiful sunset, in the swell of music, and certainly when we receive communion. The hope of heaven is all around us. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is near." But sometimes we don't hear or see heaven. Life just gets in the way. All our busyness or worries and fears can distract us from the hope of heaven. We are deaf to the glorious foretaste. During times like this we need to be reminded of heaven and all the promises it holds for us because of Jesus.

So that's how the peppermint pattie story started. Since then, the youth department has shared the sound of heaven and the hope of Jesus with countless people. In the youth office, we always have a box of peppermint patties. Teens will come in seeking the sound of heaven. Adults will break one near their ear and remember a loved one. Younger children will come in just to taste their sweetness. And, if you time it just right, you might see one of us tossing heaven out of our office window to eager hands below.

We pray that you would fully know the hope of heaven and God's great love for you. Because of Jesus, we can place our hope in heaven; where there will be no more tears, no more disease, and no more death. All will be made new. Until then, we hold onto hope and the gift of heaven. *Praise be to God for this great gift! Amen!*

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF APRIL 14, 2024



Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Amy O'Day** by Larry and Becky Link.

Sunday School

Given in memory of **Amy O'Day** by Beth Katterhenrich; Dellno and Betty Lewis; Nellie McCarley; Pati Hines, Phyllis Hupp, Karen McCall, Ronda Huston, and Anna Herbert.

Memorial Fund, Youth Ministry

Given in memory of **Amy O'Day** by Beth Katterhenrich; Susan Blaies; Raymond & Karen Bentley; Susan Koehler; John and Judy Lechner; and Kevin and Holly Starr.



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!

Letter from our Intern

One Body, Many Members

*For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.*

1 Cor. 12: 12

How is your body working? Are all of the members of your body working as you want them too? The answer is likely, “no.” Knees ache, backs get stiff, memories are not easily recalled, and so on. Even for kids this is often true: teeth fall out, you have growing pains, you can’t run as fast as adults, etc.

However, if you look at the human body and what we can do with it. . . aren’t you amazed? Just think of everything going on when someone throws a baseball, runs a mile, or even sits down and writes a letter. Bones, muscles, joints, skin, nerves, and brain work in total concert to produce motion in accordance with the will of the person.

The Bible talks about the catholic Church (catholic = universal) being Christ’s body. It is made up of many members and is meant to function in total concert with the Head (Christ) to do the will of the Father. The collection of Christians across centuries and across oceans is united by the Holy Spirit, forming many people, families, nations, and continents into one Church.

I mention all of this because I have the unusual privilege of serving and preaching at more than one congregation during my internship year. Not every intern gets to do this. It is a privilege because I get to see God at work not only in Grove City, but also in Westerville, Thornville, Columbus, and even some place called Obetz. . . In other words, in His many members.

I hope to share the ways in which God is working throughout our Mission District (the SouthEastern Ohio Mission District = SEOMD). That way, you can see – as I will – how St. John’s is not *a* church only, but a part of *THE* Church: a member of Christ’s body, which he loves and cares for, even as we do our own bodies. I look forward to sharing God’s work with you throughout Southeastern Ohio in the coming months!

In our Risen Savior!

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, May 11 at 9am
and Tuesday, May 28 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 |
| Tim Allman Sunday School Superintendent | 614-875-2314 |
| Megan Grossman Lay Ministry Director, mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org | 614-875-2314 |
| Nick Grossman Contemporary Worship Leader | 614-875-2314 |
| Diana Imbrock Youth Service Director, dimbrock@stjohnsgc.org | 614-271-5775 |
| Tom Lang, Facilities Manager tlang@stjohnsgc.org | 614-875-2314 |
| Susan Locey Bell Choir Director | 614-208-8215 |
| Mark Meuser Director of Music Ministries mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org | 614-875-2314 |
| Janice Miller, Recorder jmiller@stjohnsgc.org | 614-875-2314 |
| Kathryn Mullins Office Administrator, secretary@stjohnsgc.org | 614-875-2314 |
| Laurie Pecuch Children and Family Director lpecuch@stjohnsgc.org | 614-620-2669 |
| 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 **Amy O'Day**,
who passed away on March 23, 2024.

The family and friends of **Mel Baker**,
who passed away on April 1, 2024.

The family and friends of **Ted Mackey**,
who passed away on April 12, 2024.

The family and friends of **Ron Churchill**,
who passed away on April 15, 2024.

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



*Congratulations and
blessings to*

Caleb Ball,

*who was baptized at the 11:00am
traditional service on April 7, 2024. Please
keep Caleb in your prayers as he begins his
baptismal journey with the Lord.*

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 JUNE 2024
Eagle is MAY 10TH.**

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



The Eagle

May 2024

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

Letter from the Pastor

In May, we'll be celebrating the festival of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit poured himself out upon Jesus' followers and created the Church (Acts 2). In the power of the Spirit, the believers began proclaiming the Word of God in different languages. Pentecost is where the scattering of Babel is reversed (Genesis 11), and where the ascended Lord Jesus began gathering up all things into himself (John 12:32). The Church's Spirit-driven mission is nothing less than to bring people of every time and place together to worship the Holy Trinity through the proclamation of Christ.

In Biblical Greek, the word for Spirit is *pneuma*, which conveys (among other things) the idea of *breath*. Think of God breathing his own life into Adam (Genesis 2), and also Jesus breathing his resurrection power into his disciples (John 20). You and I have the breath of God in us!

In German the Holy Spirit is the *Heilige Geist*. *Geist* as in **gusto**. Think of a cheerleader pumping up a crowd at a football game: "we've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you?" The Holy Spirit fills us with gusto. He gives us the life, the confidence, the energy to be open, unashamed, fearless and joyful about our faith in Christ.

The Spirit uses our hands and feet, our brains, our vocal cords, to do God's work. He is invisible, but we see the effects he has on people. Through the proclamation of the risen Lord, lives are changed. We've seen it! We've seen people move from despair to hope in Christ. We've seen lost sheep find forgiveness, and an eternal home. We've seen new relationships of love and healing come into existence. We've seen people who used to be strangers come together as a family and worship the true Lord of the universe. That's the Holy Spirit at work.

A lot of things we do in the power of the Spirit take place quietly, behind the big headlines. For example, when we send gifts of food, clothing and school supplies in the name of Jesus to people in need on the holidays, or send letters of encouragement to servicemen and women, or work in a soup kitchen in Columbus, or when our youth go and run a VBS in a small community in Mexico, or when we repair homes for people in the name of Christ, or deliver beds for kids who don't have them...we are not just doing "nice" things. That's the Holy Spirit driving us out with a message to the world: Death and hopelessness will not win!

There is no longer any doubt as to how the war is going to end. God's victory march has begun. And on Pentecost, God is reminding St. John's: we're not here to watch the parade from the side of the street. Let's join it!

In Christ,

Pastor Seth Jersild