

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

DATED MATERIALS

JULY 2025

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

JULY 2025

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional


Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Classroom Antics STEAM Camp 9am Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning 11am Classroom Antics STEAM Camp 1pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm	2 C.A. STEAM Camp 9am C.A. STEAM Camp 1pm Small Group 1:30pm	3 Classroom Antics STEAM Camp 9am Promise Keepers 8am Bulletin Team 10:30am Classroom Antics STEAM Camp 1pm Children's Choir 5pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED AA 8:30pm	5 Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seek. AA 7pm
6 Traditional Worship 8:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	7 Property Team 11am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	8 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Executive Team 5:30pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	9 Small Group 1:30pm	10 EAGLE DEADLINE. Promise Keepers 8am A Joyful Pause 9:30am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm A Joyful Pause 5:30pm	11 Bulletin Team 10:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	12 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Mission: Possible! 2pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
13 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	14 Lunchtime AA 12pm Exercise Class 6pm Small Group 6pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Finance Team 7pm	15 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	16 Small Group 1:30pm	17 Promise Keepers 8am Children's Choir 5pm	18 Bible Study 9:30am Bulletin Team 10:30am OWLS 11:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	19 Columbus Miniature Society 12:30pm (SH) Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
20 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	21 Lunchtime AA 12pm Contemporary Reh. 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	22 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	23 Small Group 1:30pm	24 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing 9am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm	25 Bible Study 9:30am Bulletin Team 10:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	26 Mission: Possible! 2pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
27 Traditional Worship 8:15am QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:30am Youth Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	28 Lunchtime AA 12pm Exercise Class 6pm Small Group 6pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm	29 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Boy Scouts #392 7pm	30 Small Group 1:30pm	31 Promise Keepers 8am Children's Choir 5pm		



JULY

IN SEARCH OF SUMMER MUSICAL TALENT

Dear members of the congregation,

Since the St. John's choirs are on their summer break, we are in need of singers and instrumentalists to play for the worship services. If you play an instrument, can sing a solo, or would like to be a part of a small vocal ensemble, please let me know. I would be happy to rehearse with you to prepare an instrumental or vocal anthem for at a service. As you know, the worshippers at our services are very supportive and appreciative of musicians who share their gifts.

Sincerely,
Mark Meuser, Director of Music.



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 how you can make a difference in a young person's life, connect with our

Interim Children and Youth Directors:

Christina Allman, Donna Westerfeld, and Gini Rogers.



JOYFUL PAUSE

Joyful Pause: Come when you can and leave when you have to! It's a summer open house at St. John's on Thursdays - July 10, and August 14! Times are 9:30am to 12:30pm and 5:30 – 8:30pm. Choose which time you'd like to attend (or stop by both)!

We will have tables set up in the gym with various activities: games, puzzles, arts and crafts, cards...plus open gym! Pizza and drinks will be available around lunch and dinnertime. All ages are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Contact Karrie Clark with questions at karriejclark@gmail.com.



VBS went great!! Thank you for all the donations and all the support to make VBS happen each year. We had a wonderful time teaching youth trusting Jesus in a Wild World! We could not have put on such an amazing VBS without the help of our VBS teachers, kitchen ladies, craft and recreation leaders, science and service leaders, puppet leader, music leaders, and our awesome teen helpers! It is these hard-working people that make it a blessing each year to love kids into the kingdom at VBS.

**MISSION:
POSSIBLE**

MISSION: POSSIBLE is a service and fellowship event that will be occurring on Saturdays throughout this summer aimed towards middle and high school students. We'll be serving throughout our community and growing our faith networks, while discussing how to be 'agents' of God. Save the dates: Saturdays - July 12, 26, and August 9, 23. Gini and Donna would love for you to join them!

Our next event will take place on Saturday, July 12th from 2-8 pm. Dinner will be provided. For more information, please reach out to Gini Rogers at grogers@stjohnsgc.org. Hope to see you there!



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

See Pam Wittenberg on how your gift cards can raise monies at no extra cost to you!

**ORDERS ARE PLACED
THE FIRST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH.**

**kroger community
rewards**



**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!

As noted earlier, orders are typically released monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. If the program grows and we have more families participating, I am willing to increase this to twice a month or more, whatever is needed to help make this a success for families and our organization. Let's continue to support our wonderful youth program! Raise Right is a way to earn funds for our group without having to purchase items you would normally not purchase or need.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly for questions. I do work full-time, so evenings after 6pm or weekends are the best times to contact me. Feel free to email me or text me and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I look forward to working with you!

Pam Wittenberg

Cell/text: 614-579-7285, Email: pnw.wittenberg@gmail.com



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF JUNE 8, 2025



Mexico Missions Fund

Given in honor of Diana Imbrock's retirement by Vi Davis

Memorial Fund, Youth Ministry

Given in honor of Laurie Pecuch's retirement by Raymond and Karen Bentley and Vi Davis

Given in honor of Diana Imbrock's retirement by Raymond and Karen Bentley

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of William "Bill" Pace Jr. by Ed and Glenda Sheets; and Richard and Shelah Stage

Given in honor of Phyllis Klamfoth by Cheryl Thompson

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,
JULY 12 at 9am
and Tuesday,
JULY 22 at 6pm
in rooms 103-4**

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 and are held in rooms 103-4. Contact the leaders listed for more information.

Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Amy Shaw
614-496-2890

Monday, JULY 7 at 6:30pm

Sarah Circle
Contact
Wilma Phillips
614-875-7931

Monday, JULY 28 at 7pm

RESPECT LIFE—BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your donation! Your generosity is so appreciated! We are grateful for you and your partnership! Thank you for helping support local families! You are a blessing!

May God bless you,
Ana and the Family Empowerment Team, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers



Hello!

My name is Pam Wittenberg and I have taken over the coordination of the Raise Right fundraising program for our Youth Department. I will be coordinating the on-line portion of the program and working with Christina Allman for the overall coordination of Raise Right. My husband and I have had 2 daughters grow up in the St John's Youth Program and have firsthand knowledge of the wonderful faith-based values our church staff help to grow in the youth of our congregation. I previously coordinated this program for the GCHS Band program for several years, so I know how beneficial this program can be financially for our youth programs.

Raise Right has grown and changed over the years. There are now multiple ways in which you are able to support the Church using this program:

- 1) **Traditional Gift Cards:** you can continue to Order gift cards, both physical and on-line/electronic cards. Each card provides a "rebate" of the purchase amount back to the church as profit. Once you order your cards, some cards can be registered on your account or "in your wallet" and then be reloaded, so you don't have to get a new card each time. I personally have done this for years with Meijer, Starbucks, Panera, Walmart, etc. There are over 800 retailers available to choose from.
- 2) **Reload Gift Cards:** Simply reload previously purchased gift cards. You must use a gift card originally purchased from Raise Right. This enables you to add amounts that you typically couldn't purchase a regular card for. For example: You purchase a \$25.00 Meijer gift card and register it on your Raise right profile/wallet. The next time you want to place an order, you can add anywhere from \$1.00-\$500.00 to this card. The money will show up on your card as soon as the monthly church order is released-currently this is on the first Tuesday of every month.
- 3) **Local Dining Options:** This is a new program for Raise Right. In this program, you will need to have the Raise Right app downloaded on your phone. The program requires you to register a credit or debit card and link it to the Local Dining Fundraising Option. When you are ready to go out to eat, you can search for participating restaurants in your area. Simply use your credit card to pay for your meal and 5% of your total purchase will be rebated back to St. John's. I have not personally done this program yet, however on the Raise Right website, there is an instructional video that explains the program.

For more information, including local dining
benefits and FAQs, visit

[RaiseRight.com/How-it-Works/Local-Dining](https://www.raiseright.com/How-it-Works/Local-Dining)

- 1) **On-Line Shopping Program:** This is also a newer way to fund raise through Raise Right. In this program you shop on-line at retailers from the Raise Right website. You select on-line shopping and Raise right provides a list of participating retailers. Percentages of your purchases come back to the church. There are over 550 brands. My understanding is that you will need to use a credit card this is connected to Raise Right, however I have not personally participated in this program.

Getting started in the Raise Right Program is simple and easy:

- 1) **Go to the Raise Right website:** <https://www.raiseright.com/>
- 2) **Click sign in and sign in with your username and Password, or create these if this is your first time.**
- 3) **The organizational name is:** St John's Lutheran; **Enrollment code:** F58BB68A25237
- 4) Once you have registered, if the program requests verification of your ability to participate in the program for St. Johns, please contact me directly and I will have to complete this for you in the evenings after I get home from work.
- 5) **Place your order by the first Tuesday of every month by 4pm.** Orders will be typically be "released" that evening
- 6) **If you are not paying by credit card or direct payment to Raise Right electronically, write out your check made payable to St John's Lutheran or turn in cash payment.** **I do request that this payment be turned in before the orders are released if at all possible. If you are not able to do this, please contact me directly to discuss.

continued on back...

☞ SUMMER HYMN SCHEDULE ☛

June 8	858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 623 Rock of Ages 856 How Great Thou Art
June 15	413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty In the Garden 705 God of Grace and God of Glory
June 22	731 Earth and All Stars 487 What Feast of Love (Greensleeves) Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
June 29	O Say Can You See 888 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 890 Mine Eyes have Seen the Glory
July 6	654 The Church's One Foundation 697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee 574 Here I Am, Lord
July 13	Through the Years and through the Age 595 Jesus Loves Me 661 I Love to Tell the Story
July 20	732 Borne Cry 638 Blessed Assurance 756 Eternal Father, Strong to Save
July 27	660 Lift High the Cross 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus 779 Amazing Grace
August 3	787 On Eagle's Wings 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
August 10	767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand 344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
August 17	422 For All the Saints 728 Blessed Are They 838 Beautiful Savior
August 24	793 Be Thou My Vision 471 Let Us Break Bread Together 537 On Our Way Rejoicing
August 31	785 When Peace Like a River 592 Just As I Am, Without One Plea Onward Christian Soldiers

ST. JOHN'S NEW NORTH ENTRANCE CROSS DISPLAY

Dear St. John's: I wanted to write to ensure everyone knew about our recent blessing. When St. John's Interior Design Team Leader (for our new accessibility space), Karrie Clark, initially admired First Baptist Church of Grove City's Easter Cross display while attending a homeschooling event there, little did she know what Marc Wells, Baptist Builders extraordinaire, could make happen at St. John's by Good Friday 2025.

When we asked Mr. Wells, Leader of First Baptist's – Baptist Builder's Outreach Program, about their display, he immediately offered to build, install, and donate a cross display for our new accessibility space to enhance our Easter celebration at St. John's!

We thank Marc, the Baptist Builders, and First Baptist Church of Grove City for sharing their skills with us. We appreciate their kindness, hard work, and generosity. What a wonderful gift from our fellow Grove City brothers and sisters in Christ! Sincerely, ~ Beth Ann Katterhenrich.

"I want to thank you for all the food, flowers, prayers, cards, received during and after my recent surgery." ~ Mary Young.

"St. John's members and Wednesday Night Prayer Group: Thank you for all your prayers. Hope to be seeing you soon. The boot is coming off my foot June 5th, I hope. Thanks," ~ Marilyn Wright.

"St. John's, thank you so much for the graduation gifts. I'm sorry I couldn't make it. It meant a lot to me and I am very grateful to be a part of a church that cares! Thanks again for the kindness and prayers." ~ Briley Waller.



"I continue to be overwhelmed with the caring, loving, and giving hearts of the family of St. John's! Thank you so very much for the outpouring of your hearts in so many ways this past month as I "re-retired"! I have learned how to love and serve others through your amazing example; but I still have much more to learn. Don't be surprised to find me standing behind you taking notes! May the Lord of all creation continue to hold you in the palm of His hand as you reach out to others as His hands and feet. Blessings and miracles abound!" ~ diana

"It is with a grateful heart, full of love, that I'd like to thank my St. John's family for all your kindness and appreciation this past month. I'm very humbled and honored by your cards, notes, prayers, and special acts of love. Gary and I are blessed to have walked beside you in ministry to the children and youth at St. John's. Paul says it best in Philippians 1:4-5, "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray for joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..." Thank you again, so much! You're in our prayers and hearts." :) ~ Laurie and Gary

FROM OUR BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) LEADERS:

Revelation 5:13 – And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever."

Thank you so much for hosting our class and for all the help and support you give us.
We appreciate your willingness to use your beautiful church so we can share the Word of God.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality! Thank you for your kindness!

Thank you so much for letting us use the church! It is a blessing to us.

Thank you for your open doors to our group and so many others.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

We are incredibly blessed by your hosting and care for us. Blessings.



Quilters

The Quilters do more than just make quilts. We try to continue selected activities of the former group, the Beacons. We encourage you to help others by donating used stamps for two veterans' hospitals in Virginia, card fronts to a Cancer Thrift Store craftsperson, flat sheets for the filler and backing in the quilts and Christmas bag items. Please place your donations in the Quilters' cabinets in the Link. Thank you for remembering your donations will help others.

The Quilters appreciate the Pray Shawl Committee's help in knitting and crocheting the doll quilts for the Woodworkers of Central Ohio's Christmas doll bed project. We especially appreciate and marvel over the 80 doll quilts Vi Davis has crocheted this year. The children at the charities and Head Start will enjoy wrapping their dolls in your colorful quilts.

In the fall, we usually start requesting items for the Christmas bags our congregation donates to the Grove City Methodist Church for the Grove City Food Pantry. This year, we requesting our usual donation of crayons and small, kid-oriented items for the Christmas bags. Just a reminder, Crayola Crayons usually go on sale starting in July for around \$.50 for a box of 24 crayons. Also, keep an eye out for sales on sturdy combs, pens, small notepads, nail clippers, and the ever popular, leftover Halloween candy. Remember, the Halloween candy must have an expiration date in 2026. Any quantity you wish to donate is acceptable. Your donations have been bountiful in previous years. Please, place donated items in a labeled grocery bag in the Quilters' cabinet in the Link. Thank you for remembering the children,

Thanks to everyone for your continued donations of canceled stamps. The Quilters will be mailing a shoe box full of stamps for two veterans' hospitals in Virginia. The hospitals use the stamps for hand rehabilitation activities. The Quilters mail a box of stamps about every year and a half.

The Quilters meet most Tuesdays from 9:30am to 1:30pm in rooms 103-104. Come and go at any time. We always welcome visitors. All supplies are provided.

"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you." ~ John 15:12

LAY READERS are needed for the 8:15am and 11am worship services from July through December.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish entrance. Thank you for serving in this ministry. Contact Jo Dimond if you have any questions at 614-270-3291.



OWLS EVENT—JULY 18, 2025



The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) once again welcome you to join us for our speaker and lunch -regardless of your age!! Tell a friend! Bring a friend! And it's a great way to make a friend!

Greg Finzer will be our guest speaker. He will share the history and hopes for the future of St. John's Bed Brigade. There are a lot of numbers used to tell the story – over 429 beds built and given away this year, 660 people on the waiting list and a wait time of 8 months. Take a minute and think about these children who don't have the luxury of sleeping in their own bed with a warm blanket, sheets and a fluffy pillow. The congregation of St. John's appreciates the hard work and dedication of the team behind the success. We hope you join us and learn more.



The OWLS will provide fried chicken and meat loaf for our potluck lunch, but we ask you to bring a covered dish and join your friends (old and new) 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!

Welcome New Members

On June 8th, we formally welcomed the following new members into our fellowship at St. John's:

The Beathard Family

Marcia Downs

Steve and Debra Isaac

Theresa Colburn

Shelia Holcomb

Linda Lewis

Ron and Judy Conklin

Jaqueline Honeck

Julie Wittenberg

We rejoice and give thanks to God for bringing them to us! Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey with Christ at St. John's.

SECURITY TEAM MEMBER WANTED!



Due to a recent vacancy, the Security Team is searching for a new member. The duties include:

- Walking the interior and exterior of the building
- Turning off lights
- Checking the doors are locked, and locking them where needed
- Noting when things need to be fixed.

The schedule for the team member is 14 days rotation, and typically takes an hour each night. The compensation is \$12/hr.

If interested, please contact the office: secretary@stjohnsgc.org, 614-875-2314.

TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

Please join us every 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 6pm in the Family Life Center (FLC) for 30 minutes of fun, fellowship, and fitness. Everyone is welcome, however the class is geared more towards those who want to strengthen their core and work on their balance. There are chairs available to help with any needed stability. Several of the exercises are seated, but there are some standing balance challenges too. The last 5 or so minutes of each session is a basic work out with light hand weights for anyone who wants to stay and participate. Just bring two 1-3 lb. weights or even a couple of 16.9 oz. plastic water bottles will work. This is a drop in class so no registration is needed.

Just come when you can! Please call Diane Sexton with any questions at 678-572-0308. Thank you!

The next meetings are on Monday, July 14th and Monday, July 28th.



SARAH CIRCLE—Service Project

One of the Service Projects the Sarah Circle does is Health Kits to the Grove City Pantry. Contents in each set are: Dental Floss, Full Size Toothpaste (check expiration date) Full Size Deodorant, Two Bars of Wrapped Soap, One Dark Wash Cloth, and One Dark Bath Towel. **We have an over abundance of toothbrushes, so please omit them.** Please place your donations in the marked cabinet in the link. We will be assembling the kits at our Sept. 22nd meeting. Your consideration with this project is very much appreciated by the Sarah Circle members and all who will be receiving these Kits. Any questions, please contact Jane Stenerson, 614/875-8057. Thank you.



GREAT WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Summer Break

Women of the Bible, Thursday Bible Study, will break for summer. The class will resume at 3pm and 6pm on Thursdays starting up again in August. Please keep your eyes on the NewsNotes for details.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Patricia A. Morlock, Pastor pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 740-405-1548
Christina Allman Interim Grades K-6/Families callman@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Tim Allman Sunday School Superintendent	614-875-2314
Jason Bosse, Facilities Manager jbosse@stjohnsgc.org	614-441-1203
Megan Grossman Lay Ministry Director, mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Nick Grossman Contemporary Worship Leader	614-875-2314
Susan Locey, Bell Choir Director	614-208-8215
Mark Meuser, Director of Music mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Kathryn Mullins Office Administrator, secretary@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Gini Rogers, Interim Grades 9-12 grogers@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
David Shrum Contemporary Music Leader	614-875-2314
Kate Shrum Children's Choir Director	614-875-2314
Donna Westerfeld Interim Grades 7-8, dwesterfeld@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
Jamie Wise, Recorder jwise@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314

THE QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
will be held on Sunday, July 27th at 9:30am.
Be sure to attend!

The article deadline for the AUGUST Eagle is
JULY 10TH.

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



*Congratulations
and blessings
to
Will Hughes
and Ian Hughes
who were baptized
at the 8:15am
traditional service
on Sunday, June 1st!*

*Please keep the family in your prayers as
they begin their baptismal journeys
with the Lord.*



**NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship:

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

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 11am

Join us each week during the Sunday School Hour!

We would like to welcome all children ages 2 and
up who are not already attending to join us
during the Sunday School Hour from
9:30-10:30am each Sunday.

Parents are encouraged to join one of our adult
classes. There's even one that focuses on
parenting related topics.

If you have any questions, please see Tim Allman
or a member of the youth staff.

We look forward to seeing you!!

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

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers: Aaron Clark, Council President; David
Clark, Vice President; Rachel Katterhenrich,
Secretary; Kathy Myers, Treasurer.

Members-At-Large: Cindy Gonsowski, Abby
Johnston, Doug Knisley, Phil Pennington, Bonnie
Swanson, Amy Wanner, Paul
Wittenberg.



The Eagle

July 2025

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Letter from the Pastor

Sanctified in Truth

Dear Disciples of Jesus,

In the movie, "Beauty and the Beast", Beast discovers that Beauty loves him in all his ugliness. Only then does he himself become beautiful. Only when we understand how much God loves us in all our unloveliness can we ourselves begin to become lovely... and godly. The biblical term for this process is called *sanctification*, and it has three "tenses".

In the past, God declared you and me holy because of Jesus' death on the cross. In this regard, we're like a lump of clay that's been purchased by a potter. In the future, all believers will be completely perfected by Christ when he comes again (someday we will become a flawless vessel. But in the meantime - in the present - Jesus asks his Father to conform us to his image (by molding us on his potters' wheel).

We are shaped "by the truth", Jesus says. Sadly, truth has fallen on hard times, so most people simply do what is right in their own eyes, and say, "This is MY truth." Yet biblically, truth is not a concept you can agree or disagree with. Truth is a *person* that you must either accept or reject. Truth is Jesus, the incarnate Word of God. And we come to know Him through the written Truth of revelation, and the proclaimed Truth of preaching. According to Jesus, this is how God works sanctification in those who believe:

"You are already **clean** because of the **word** I have spoken to you. (John 15:3)

"If you **hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the **truth** will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

As we celebrate the freedoms we have in this country today, may we understand that there is only one way to be truly free. Sanctification is God's work, by the truth of his Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit. So how is the Spirit convicting you of sin today? Are you yielding to the ongoing spirit of repentance and humility that God wants to work into your life? Or resisting? As the Lord shapes and transforms you by his Word, what lies of the evil one are being exposed? What deceitfulness of heart? The Word of truth conforms our thoughts to God's thoughts, and our feelings to his feelings, empowering us to love him with engaged minds and soft hearts. About this ongoing process called sanctification, the reformer Martin Luther observed:

"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

And so we sing,

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine.

(Hymn, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee," Ray Palmer, 1830)

Looking Forward in Faith,

Pastor Patti

