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

DATED MATERIALS
AUGUST 2025

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The Eagle
AUGUST 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 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	2 Private Event 11am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seek. AA 7pm
Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	4 Property Team 11am Lunchtime AA 12pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	<b>5 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE</b> Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning 11am Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm	Small Group 1:30pm	7 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm	8 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	9 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am MISSION: POSSIBLE! 2pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
To EAGLE DEADLINE. Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	11 Lunchtime AA 12pm Exercise Class 6pm Small Group 6pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Finance Team 7pm	12 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Private Event 8:30am Quilters 9:30am Executive Team 5:30pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>13</b> Small Group 1:30pm	14 Promise Keepers 8am A Joyful Pause 9:30am Children's Choir 5pm A Joyful Pause 5:30pm	15 Bible Study 9:30am OWLS 11:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	<b>16</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
HACKPACK BLESSINGS BACKPACK BLESSINGS Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	<b>18</b> Lunchtime AA 12pm Council 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	19 Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Friends of the Library 5:50pm Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Contemporary Band 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	<b>20</b> Small Group 1:30pm	21 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing 9am Small Group 2pm Children's Choir 5pm	22 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	23 Columbus Miniature Society 12:30pm MISSION: POSSIBLE! 2pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
24 Combined Outdoor Worship 10:45am Church Picnic 12pm Adult Basketball 5pm	25 BSF Leader Workshop 9am Lunchtime AA 12pm Exercise Class 6pm Small Group 6pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Respect Life 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm	<b>26</b> Men's Prayer Group 6:30am Quilters 9:30am Private Event 10am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	Small Group 1:30pm	<b>28</b> Promise Keepers 8am Children's Choir 5pm	29 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	<b>30</b> Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
31 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School 9:30am Small Group 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm		August 24: No Youth Sunday School. Come see us at Outdoor Worship and the Church Picnic! The office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.	chool. Come see	24: No Youth Sunday School. Come see us at Outdoor Worship and the Churcl The office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day	nd the Church Picnicl of Labor Day.	





# **Update on the Youth & Family Ministry Director Search**

We are in a period of waiting to return to our search for a permanent Youth & Family Ministry Director as we need to have a senior pastor in place before continuing. As God tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

God has us in his secure plan with the faithful interims in place to guide us through this time of transition until we see his future path fulfilled. Please reach out to the Youth & Family Ministry Director Search committee chair, Amy Wanner, if you have any further questions.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SCOUTING



Boy Scout Troop 392 gives a heartfelt THANK YOU to St. John's Lutheran Church pastors, leaders, and staff, and all of our community! Our church has been the chartering organization for Boy Scout Troop 392 for many decades. We appreciate having space to meet year-round inside and outside, a safe place to house our equipment storage shed and travel trailer, ample opportunities to give service to our community, and your support and prayers for our young men. Through the Scouting program, Scouts develop key character traits to live out the Scout Oath and Law. Current St. John's youth and active 392 Scouts are:

Michael and Jaxxon Baldree, Davy Clark, Jackson and Steven Czaplicki, Matthew Little, and Ben Previts

At this year's summer camp, seven (7) Scouts and five (5) Scouters (supporting adult leaders) attended **Camp Beaumont** as one of the 30 Troops and 450+ people. Now that's a lot of Scouting going on! https://www.beaumontscoutreservation.org/ states, "Beaumont Scout Reservation is a full-service Scout Reservation with forests, fields, wetlands and lakes, sitting on 1,260 acres along the Grand River in Rock Creek, Ohio, (approximately 40 miles east from downtown Cleveland, Ohio)." Due to the camp's size, our troop hauls a trailer with each Scout's bicycles so they can travel efficiently between activity sites. Our Scouts had a 78% completion rate on their Merit Badge goals and one Scout ranked up to First Class! They won the camp's annual Gate Competition which challenges Scouts to erect a gate using pioneering skills lashing together fallen tree limbs to display their flag high in the sky. We are incredibly proud of these young men who persevered through some of the hottest temperatures and high humidity on record for northeast Ohio in late June.

**Boy Scout Troop 392** meets every Tuesday 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the St. John's Shelter House, the FLC, or Rooms 103-104 (weather dependent – outside summer and fall,

inside winter and spring). Every month the troop explores the world on adventures near and far doing activities like canoeing, hiking, fishing, camping, cooking and more. We welcome young men ages 11-17 years (or 10 yrs. old and have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade or Cub Scout Arrow of Light). We also welcome adults interested in working with youth helping them grow. To learn more, view our website at www.grovecitytroop392.com,

or contact Scoutmaster Dan Czaplicki via email troop.392.scoutmaster@gmail.com or by phone 380-799-2646.

Scout Oath: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

### 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: It's a summer open house at St. John's on Thursday, August 14!

Times are 9:30am to 12:30pm and 5:30 – 8:30pm. Stop by for either session (or come to both)! We will have tables set up in the gym with various activities: games, puzzles, arts and crafts...plus open gym! Pizza and drinks will be available around lunch and dinner time.

JOYFULPAUSE

All ages, young and old, are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors! Contact Karrie Clark with questions at karriejclark@gmail.com.



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 August 9 and August 23. Gini and Donna would love for you to join them!

Our next event will take place on Saturday, August 9th 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!



# **SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th IS BACKPACK BLESSING!**

Students, of all ages, and teachers!

Bring your backpack or lunchbox with you to church on **Sunday, August 17**<sup>th</sup> and pastors will say a special blessing over you, your backpacks, your lunchbox, and your school year during worship.



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.



Connect your KROGER card with the COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM.

Go to <a href="https://www.kroger.com/">https://www.kroger.com/</a>
<a href="mailto:communityrewards">communityrewards</a>.

Our organization number is

EY530.

Shop at Kroger and a percentage comes back to the youth at St. John's!



SO WEAR YOUR BEST PARTY FROCK AND JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON WITH OUR SISTERS IN CHRIST. OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE EVENT PLEASE EMAIL MEGAN GROSSMAN AT MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSQC.ORG

### From Your Property Team

It takes all of us working together to ensure that St. John's buildings and grounds are well-kept and maintained. We truly appreciate the support of members and groups who use our facilities and leave the areas clean and organized — thank you!

The Property Team continues to move throughout the church, meeting with various ministries to understand how we can best support their storage needs and maintenance requests.

We kindly ask for everyone's help with the following:

**Coordinate all matters related to our physical spaces** with Jason Bosse, our Facilities and Grounds Manager.

Notify a member of the Property Team with any questions, concerns, or proposed projects.

Leave every area cleaner and more organized than you found it. This simple habit helps us keep our facilities welcoming to all.

**Keep all items at least 24 inches from the ceiling** in rooms and closets to ensure compliance with fire codes.

**Use the provided sign holders and bulletin boards** when promoting events. Please avoid taping signs to doors, windows, or walls — tape damages surfaces we've worked hard to maintain.

**Donate thoughtfully.** Items should be placed only in the collection area designated for that ministry. If you have items you think the church might need, check with the relevant ministry leader or leave a message with the church secretary. Someone will follow up to determine whether the items are suitable. Unsolicited donations can create clutter and extra work for others.

**Volunteer to help care for our outdoor spaces.** Please indicate your availability on the salmon sheet.

Your cooperation helps keep St. John's clean, organized, and inviting for everyone. Thank you for doing your part!

Let's work together with these simple reminders:

See a weed? Pull it!
Spill something? Wipe it up!
See some trash? Throw it away!
Drop some crumbs? Clean them up!

— The Property Team

# **Renovation Project Update**

Work is expected to begin July 21st on the renovation projects that were approved at the special congregational meeting. The plan is to install the new HVAC units 7/21 thru 8/25. New lighting controls are scheduled for the week of 7/21. Scaffolding for the bell tower work is currently scheduled to begin the week of 8/4, with completion of repairs by 10/6. Stained glass work is planned to begin at the beginning of September. Updates will be provided as the project progresses.

#### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

St. John's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Family Life Center on TUESDAY, AUGUST 26 from 12-6 pm.



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

# On August 24th at 10:45am, we will combine our three Sunday worship services into one grand outdoor worship event!

Bring lawn chairs and dress causal as we gather by our Shelter House to praise God under His clear blue sky.

Note that the 4pm worship service will be held as usual Saturday, August 23rd, but please join us on Sunday for the picnic!

The **Church Picnic** will be here before you know it! We have set aside Sunday, August 24th for this time of fellowship. We will gather in the Shelter House (weather permitting) immediately following the **Outdoor Worship Service**.

Everything will be provided for the picnic; however, we will be collecting a 'free will offering' to help offset the cost. All donations will be greatly appreciated! Please bring a dessert to share.

# Arts in the Alley Mission Silent Auction September 19-21, 2025

Arts in the Alley is quickly approaching and the Mexico/Alaska Missions are again having a silent auction to support the children in their walk with Jesus.

If you have a <u>new, hand-made, collectible item or a themed</u> <u>basket or gift card</u> you would like to donate, please drop off your items to the church September 16-18th.

Questions? Call or Text Diana at 614-271-5775.

Thank you for continuing to support missions as we reach out to make heaven crowded! ①





Arts & Music Festival • September 19–21

# WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are happy to teach anyone interested how to knit or crochet. For more information, call Glenda Allman at 614-352-5955 or Diana Imbrock at 614-271-5775.



Join us for the next meetings on Saturday, AUGUST 9 at 9am and Tuesday, AUGUST 26 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

> Elizabeth Circle Contact Amy Shaw 614-496-2890

Monday, AUGUST 4 at 6:30pm

Sarah Circle Contact Wilma Phillips 614-875-7931

Monday, AUGUST 25 at 7:00pm

#### **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.

### **OWLS EVENT—AUGUST 15, 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!

NOTE: Everyone is welcome to join us but it helps the planning committee if you either use the salmon sheet included in the weekly bulletin or call the office or Bonnie Swanson to make your reservation.

And if your plans change, please call to cancel.

Our August speaker was featured on the cover of the most recent Discover Grove City and the story of his personal struggle and others with the trauma. Lt. Tom Bolin is a Grove City resident, firefighter for Norwich Township and an advocate for first responders' mental health. We will also be welcoming his furry friend and therapy dog Finn. First responders cannot avoid the trauma, but they can create healthy coping mechanisms to mitigate its effect.



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 11:15am so we can open the meeting at 11:30am. Use the salmon sheet in Sunday's bulletin to make your reservation so the group can plan accordingly. You can also call the office or Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002.

Hope to see you there!

## MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

#### **Mexico Missions Fund**

Given in honor of **Diana Imbrock's retirement** by Bill and Chris Snashall

## **Memorial Fund, Youth Ministry**

Given in honor of **Laurie Pecuch's retirement** by Bill and Chris Snashall

Given in honor of **Pastor Seth's retirement** by Jim Braskett

### Sunday School Fund

Given in memory of **Annette Utzinger** by Beth Katterhenrich

#### **Vacation Bible School Fund**

Given in memory of **Annette Utzinger** by Beth Katterhenrich

# **SUMMER HYMN SCHEDULE 2025**

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 (vs. 1-4)

August 17 **422** For All the Saints (vs. 1-3,7) **728** Blessed Are They (vs. 1-4)

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

You, the congregation, and the Quilters are partners in making and filling the Christmas bags for the needy children. The Quilters truly appreciate your willing participation in this ministry. The Quilters make and you fill 100 Christmas bags for the children at the Grove City Food Pantry at the Methodist Church with small, useful items. School supplies continue to be on sale at various stores.



We are in need of Crayola crayons in boxes of 24 crayons that are on sale for \$.50 a box. The larger boxes do not fit in our bags. We can use glue sticks, sturdy combs, nail clippers, pencils, small notepads if you find a good deal on them. Next month, Halloween candy will start at appear on store shelves in full force. Please buy enough of this "sweetenin' power" to have leftover Halloween candy for the Christmas bags. Remember the candy needs to have an expiration date of 2026. In the fall, we will start to cut and sew the Christmas bags. We can use your help in cutting and sewing the bags. Thank you for thinking about Halloween candy and Christmas giving in August.

Do you need a special gift for someone? We have a variety of small quilts suitable to give as baby shower gifts and warm sofa throw quilts. Stop by any Tuesday or call the church to reach a quilter.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm or thereabouts in rooms 103-104. We are a very small group of about 4-7 people and like to see new faces. Come and stay as you are able and desire. We don't punch a timecard. Bring your packed lunch or a snack if you wish. All materials are provided. You can always just sit and join in the conversation. We welcome all.

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." ~ Galatians 6:2

#### TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

Please join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Monday, August 11th and Monday, August 25th.

# **SARAH CIRCLE—Service Project**



One of the Service Projects the Sarah Circle does is put together Health Kits to give to the Grove City Pantry. <u>Contents in each set are</u>: Dental Floss, Emery Board, Nail Clippers, Sturdy Comb, Full Size Toothbrush, 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 September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Your consideration with this project is very much appreciated by the Sarah Circle members and all who will be receiving these Health Kits.

Any questions, please contact Jane Stenerson, 614-875-8057. Thank you.

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Letter from our Interim Youth Directors



Blessings! My name is **Christina Allman**, and I have been called to step into the interim position for Grades K-6 Youth and Family Director as well as the Administrative Point person for the Youth Department.

I joined St. John's 24 years ago when I met Tim at college and began our life together. We started out helping with high school youth and continued to be involved with workcamp, Sunday school teaching, and many other activities. I have two boys, Corban (16) and Truman (12), who have joined us in serving and being a part of the youth program.

Over the years, I have been involved with Sunday School, VBS, and Adventure Club and have loved every opportunity God has given me to interact with our youth and the wonderful program. I am excited to see what God has in store for our youth moving forward and ask that He guide myself and the other faithful interims on his path. "To Him be glory!" ~ Ephesians 3:21.



Hello! My name is **Donna Westerfeld**, and I will be your Interim 7th and 8th Grade Youth Director.

I have attended St. John's all my life and I am so honored to be in this role. The youth program here is so special to me and I hope to help bring our middle school kids closer to Jesus, each other and the rest of our church family.

Outside of St. John's I am an Operations Lead at CoverMyMeds. I have two teenagers of my own: Jake and Adelaide. Please say hi when you see us around and never hesitate to reach out if you have questions or want to help out with our youth!







I have been a member of St. John's throughout my life and have so many fond memories growing up and participating in the youth program. It's been an honor to work with our youth, and I can't wait to continue to build on the strong foundation of faith, relationships, and service that makes St. John's so special.



Outside of church, I also work at Groveport Madison High School teaching freshman and sophomore English. If you have any suggestions or feedback about our youth programming, or if you'd like to connect more with our youth, please don't hesitate to reach out!

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Letter from the Vicar

Hello Everyone!



As you may or may not know, my name is Billie Fisch and I am the new pastoral intern here at St. John's. I'm excited to be here and see what God has in store for all of us as we serve Him together!

To tell you a little about me, I was born and raised in Southwestern Pennsylvania in a very small town that doesn't even have a stoplight! I attended college at Slippery Rock University for both my undergraduate and my first masters. I was an Intervention Specialist in various settings for close to 15 years, and spent 9 of those years teaching at Streetsboro City Schools in Northeast Ohio.

In 2022, I felt called to stop teaching and go back to school for a Masters in Divinity.

While I did not yet know where God was leading, I trusted him to take that leap. I did my initial schooling at Asbury Theological Seminary, and then moved to the North American Lutheran Seminary in 2023. It has been a true blessing and an enlightening experience, as I have learned so much and my faith has been deepened by it.

To give a little bit of our personal background, my husband Bob and I met at a Christmas Party in December of 2020. Then, after six months of long distance dating, we were engaged. We got married in June of 2022, and we moved to Baltimore, MD in 2023, where we lived until moving to Grove City last month. We do not have any children, but we are praying that God will bless us with children through adoption in the future.

In our free time, we like to walk our large labrador mix named Timon, go for hikes, ride our bicycles, and go to sporting events, so if you see us out doing these things, please come say hello!

I can't wait to meet all of you, so please come introduce yourself! (And please be patient as I learn names!)

If you have any questions for me or ever need to talk, please know that my office door is always open!

In Christ's Service,

**Billie Fisch**Mrs. Billie Jo Fisch
Pastoral Intern



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Patricia A. Morlock, Pastor pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314 740-405-1548
Billie Jo Fisch, Pastoral Intern bfisch@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314
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@	614-875-2314 Dstjohnsgc.org
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@stj	614-875-2314 ohnsgc.org
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@s	614-875-2314 tjohnsgc.org
Jamie Wise, Recorder jwise@stjohnsgc.org	614-875-2314

# The article deadline for the SEPTEMBER Eagle is <u>AUGUST 10TH.</u>

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

# Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

The family and friends of **Marilyn Smith**, who passed away on July 1, 2025.

All who grieve are in our hearts and prayers.



# Congratulations and blessings to

Kris Kirk, who was baptized at the 11:00am traditional service on Sunday, June 29th.

Please keep Kris in your prayers as he begins his baptismal journey with the

### 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

August 2025

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

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Disciples of Jesus,

Life is filled with uncertainty. That was as true for the first century church as it is today. Maybe more so. Persecution for the first generations of Christians came, not in the form of name calling, but of beheading and martyrdom. Yet John of Patmos, whose own persecution entailed forced exile - comforts believers of all times and places with the assurance that in Christ, we can have spiritual certainty in uncertain times.

In his vision, in Revelation 20:1-6, John describes an angelic messenger sent by God the Father to do battle with Satan. Back in Genesis 3, immediately after Adam and Eve traded God's perfect love for the serpent's lies, God promised a Savior, who would destroy the serpent's power. Whether the thousand years of Satan's powerlessness are to be understood literally or figuratively, let's not miss the main point that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has triumphed over evil and all its representatives! He's given his church authority over them, too (see Matthew 18:18 and James 4:7). Why then, do you and I live sometimes as though that's not true?

In his powerlessness, the devil seeks to manipulate and destroy Christ's followers, including you. So when the evening news and your own trials make it seem as though evil is winning and that God's plan is somehow faltering, how are you fighting back? In Genesis 3, the serpent asked, "Did God really say...?" That was all it took for our first parents to forget God's good command and gracious gifts. And although Satan is now chained, he continues to lunge at us as far as that long chain will allow, whispering the same kind of deceit.

But in the midst of or our own failures, in the midst of so many global, racial, political, economic, and personal uncertainties, John says nothing can undo Satan's defeat and Jesus' victory. We have God's promise that we will share in Christ's reign of peace and justice that has already begun, but is not yet complete. Knowing that Jesus wins, how will you bring his victory to bear this week in your thoughts and decisions? In your family relationships? Your job? Your neighborhood? Your church?

As we continue to look ahead to what's next for St. John's, let us remember that as the Body of Christ, we commend all things to Him who already knows the plans He has for us. So, we wait, and we pray, and we remain faithful to what He has called us to do in this moment. We pray for the next pastor, and we pray for one another. In Jesus name. Amen.

Looking Forward in Faith,

Pastor Patti