

NEWS NOTES

November 22-23, 2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314 | www.stjohnsgc.org | secretary@stjohnsgc.org

Pastor Patti Morlock | (740) 405-1548 | pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org

Intern Billie Fisch | bfisch@stjohnsgc.org

Guest Pastor Jeff Morlock



Mark Meuser, Director of Music Ministry

Nick Grossman and David Shrum, Contemporary Worship Leaders

Susan Locey, Director of Celebration Ringers

✠ SERVING TODAY ✠

Greeters

11:00am: MD: Carol Rich

ND: Gloria Biggs

Altar Guild

Don and Diane Carducci

Contemporary: Theresa Wahl

Ushers

4:00pm: Michael Gibboney, Steve Henry

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

11:00am: George Gonsowski, Dennis
Imbrock, Tom Lang, Larry
Sutton

Acolytes

8:15am: Corban Allman, Addy Gottshall

11:00am: Riley Millet, Wes Millet

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: David Sweeley

8:15am: Betty Lewis, Sarah Schmitz

11:00am: Christine Hank, Cindy
Gonsowski, Lisa Mawhorr

Contemporary: Brad and Theresa Wahl,
Beth Katterhenrich

Readers

4:00pm: Charlie Brown

8:15am: Karen Bentley

11:00am: Sheryl Fraley

Contemporary: Beth Katterhenrich, Hope
Katterhenrich

Lessons Today: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given by Jim and Sheryl Fraley in loving memory of their son, Gregory.

PULPIT FLOWERS: In celebration of the birthday of my father, Armand Arabian. Given by Sarah Schmitz and family.

BULLETINS: In memory of my loving, warm, beautiful, wonderful grandma, Norma Phelps. She is forever with me in mind and heart. Given with love by Kathryn Mullins.

✧ PERSONAL NEWS ✧

AVERIL IS MOVING to StoryPoint on December 12th, room 222. Dear Church Family, words cannot truly express my gratitude for the love, care, and support I have received from our wonderful congregation. During my recent health challenges, your cards, calls, visits, and prayers have been a constant source of comfort and strength. Your kindness has shown me God's love in action and reminded me that we never walk our journeys alone. I am deeply humbled and uplifted by your compassion and faith. May God bless each of you and your families richly as we continue to walk together in faith, hope, and love. With heartfelt thanks, **your sister in Christ**, ~ Averil MacKenzie.

✧ TODAY'S NEWS ✧

COME ONE! COME ALL! To the annual Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction today, **Sunday, November 23, right after the late service.** We will be tasting chili and voting on the best St. John's recipe. Bid on some amazing desserts created by the incredible bakers right here in our midst. It's a perfect time to get those much-needed Thanksgiving treats without all the work! All donations and auction monies will go to support Short Term Missions. Come join us for a fun-filled, tummy-filled afternoon!



CHRISTMAS DECORATING: It's time to get our church ready for Christmas! We'll be decorating on **Friday, November 28** (the day after Thanksgiving), from **9:00–11:00am**. Come lend a hand — even an hour makes a big difference! If you'd like to help, mark the salmon sheet or contact **Megan Grossman** at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org. Let's make our church shine for the season!

THE CHANCEL CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS FOR CHRISTMAS! For anyone who enjoys singing, but may not be able to commit to weekly choir practices all year, this is a great opportunity to add your voice to the Christmas celebration. Interested parishioners would need only to practice with the choir in mid-November and December in order to sing with the choir during Christmas. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please see Music Director Mark Meuser or any choir member if you think you may be interested. You would be warmly welcomed!

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



BIBLE PASSAGES AND QUESTIONS TO PONDER: Hello All! To deepen your walk with Christ, please consider reading these passages and pondering the questions before next Sunday. These will be our lectionary readings for Sunday, November 30.

Monday, November 24—Isaiah 2:1-5

- This passage pictures a time when all will be at peace and Jesus will reign forever. Do you see any peace in the world now? What can we do to make the world a more peaceful place?

Tuesday, November 25—Psalm 122

- How have you made peace with anyone in the past week? Who did you forgive? Who do you need to forgive? Did you ask anyone for forgiveness, or do you need to?

Wednesday, November 26—Romans 13:11-4

- How does the Bible's definition of love compare to that of what you see in the media?

Thursday/ Friday, November 27-28—Matthew 22:36-44

- When thinking of the 10 Commandments, Commandments 1-3 can be summed up as love the Lord your God and Him only, while commandments 4-10 can be summed up as love your neighbor as yourself.
- How do you think knowing that you are loved by God changes your perception of yourself? Does this change your perception of others to know that they too are loved by God?

Saturday, November 22—Please take some time to pray for our services this weekend.

Lord, please guide our services this weekend. Grant our pastors and our vicar words of wisdom. Give us open hearts and open minds to hear your Word and to make any changes to which You call us. Please help us to greet visitors in our midst and help us to be joyful. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

GREETERS NEEDED for traditional services. We kindly request volunteers for 4pm and 8:15am to contact the office, 614-875-2314, and for 11am greeters to contact Linda Diehl, 614-906-1408.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REMEMBRANCE: The Service of Comfort and Remembrance will be held **Sunday, November 30** at 2pm in the Sanctuary. This service provides a worship opportunity not only for those who have experienced the death of a family member or friend in the past year, but also to comfort those who have experienced deaths in past years who continue to deal with their grief. For those who have had a loss in the past year, the family will receive an ornament in memory of their loved one. A fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the worship service in the Family Life Center.

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS: On **Sunday, December 7th**, we'll be delivering **Christmas Kindness** and a little extra **holiday joy** to some of our older members and those who've had a tough year. Each will get a **poinsettia** and a **festive gift bag** to remind them they're loved and prayed for this season. Everything will be **ready to grab in the back of the Family Life Center** right after the **late service**. The families already know that a bit of **Christmas kindness** is coming their way!

If you'd like to help **spread some joy and Christmas smiles**, just **mark the salmon sheet** to sign up. We're hoping to visit about **60 members and households**, so the more, the merrier!

ANGEL TREES ARE UP! It's that wonderful time again-our Angel Trees are up! These are located in the North Entrance and in the back of the FLC. Each angel holds a gift wish for a child in our congregation who could use a little extra Christmas cheer and otherwise may not get much. Grab an angel, shop for the gift, wrap it up with the **angel attached** to the outside of the gift, and return it to the church office or the bin in the North Entrance (labeled Angel Tree) by **Sunday, December 14th**. If you have any questions please contact Megan Grossman, 614-905-2629.



THE MITTEN TREE is up in the North Entrance! Please help fill it with mittens, gloves, hats, earmuffs, scarves, and warm socks for all ages. *All items need to be new with tags or homemade.* The tree is up until November 30th, after which the items will be taken to the Purple Door Free Store, where they will be distributed to our neighbors in need. Please contact Ben Previts at 380-710-3689 if you have any questions. Thank you for helping our community stay warm!

THE CHRISTMAS QUILT SALE IS COMING! Now that Thanksgiving will soon be over, we can get serious about Christmas. The Quilters' Christmas Quilt Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, December 13-14, 2025, from 9:00am to noon. The sale will be in the Link. The money raised will be given to church related activities. Winter is coming! It'll be cold out there! Lutheran quilts keep you warm! Thank you for helping with the Quilters' ministry.

SAVE THE DATE! CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE COMING!

Do you love to bake? Do you have a favorite cookie recipe you would love to share? Your talents are needed! Our Christmas Cookie and Goodie Sale will be on **Saturday, December 13th**. This sale will also be open to the community.



We will need dozens and dozens of cookies and other homemade items. We are asking for **homemade treats only**. If you don't want to bake but want to help in another way, please feel free to make a monetary donation to the Kitchen Fund. Any questions, please call Suzie Brace, 614-313-1364 or Sue Sutton, 614-539-9544.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available on the table in the Overflow.

These are dated 2026, and your box number may be different from last year, so please wait until January 1st to use them. If you do not see a box with your name, please indicate that you would like a box on the notepad provided. I will place a box for you beside the notepad the following weekend. **Please note a change to the envelopes:** when using the "other" line, please specify the fund you would like to donate to. If none is specified, it will be placed in the Operating Fund.

ANNUAL BIKE PROJECT: Once again St. John's is pairing up with The Buckeye Ranch to supply bikes to children in need within central Ohio. Corban Allman is heading up the project this year, and our goal is 40 bikes with helmets. You may sponsor a fourth of a bike for \$25, a half of a bike for \$50, a full bike for \$100, or help purchase a helmet for \$20.

Donation envelopes are located at the North Entrance and in the Link. Envelopes must be returned by December 7th and may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.



Questions: Contact Corban Allman at corbana09@gmail.com or Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org. **Thank you for giving kids something fun to ride at Christmas!**

OTTERBEIN CHOIR AT ST. JOHN'S – Saturday, December 13 at 6pm. The Otterbein Choir will be performing their Christmas concert at St. John's Church at 6pm on December 13. The choir is under the direction of Professor Gayle Walker. Members of the community are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE: Now that we are fully into the winter season, we are again asking for donations of winter coats, hats, gloves and blankets. If we believe the Farmer's Almanac, our area is to be colder than normal and will receive more precipitation.

This year we have chosen a couple recipients for your donations: Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church (who has a connection with the Columbus City Schools), West Jefferson Public Library (they have a couple racks offering residents free coats, jackets, hats, and gloves in the hall in their library).

You may drop off items from November through February. A 'trash can' is in the link with "John the Bear" on the edge of the container. *Matthew 25:40 ~ Jesus said, "Truly, I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me."* THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO ALL! If you have questions, contact Bruce or Karen Whyte, 614-878-9392.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Submit your prayer requests on the back of this week's salmon sheet. You may also contact the church office by phone at 614-875-2314 or by email at secretary@stjohnsgc.org. Requests are updated on a weekly basis and should be turned in by Monday mornings.

A SECURE DROP SLOT is located under the staff mailboxes in the hallway near the secretary's office. If you are dropping off a monetary gift or papers with confidential information, please put it through the slot to help ensure security.

SUBMITTING A NEWS NOTES ARTICLE? Articles are due on Wednesdays by 9am. Please give your article directly to the office, or via email at secretary@stjohnsgc.org.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUPS are on winter break for the month of December. We will meet again starting January 7th and 8th.

HIGH SCHOOLERS, IQA Bible Study will still meet on Wednesdays now through December 17th via Zoom at 6pm.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14th for our Christmas Program Dinner Theater at 5pm. If students are interested in being a part of the program, please have them reach out to Christina or Tim Allman. **Practices have started during Sunday School.** We will have two Thursday night practices on December 4th and 11th from 5:30-7:15 with dinner provided. We will have our final practice on Sunday, December 14th during the Sunday School Hour.

⌘ STEWARDSHIP ⌘

ATTENDANCE

November 16

- 315

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES!

How to give to St. John's:



+ Place your offering in the collection basket during worship services.

+ Mail your offering to the church – 3220 Columbus St., Grove City, OH 43123.



+ St. John's website – www.stjohnsgc.org – online giving is available through Vanco Services, and we have partnered with them for more than 20 years. It is secure and safe.



+ Through your financial institution – they will send a check directly to the church on your behalf.



+ Through the Vanco Mobile app available from Apple or Google – again a partnership between the church and Vanco Services. Set up a profile one time, and set up a recurring gift, or give when you want to. Once your profile is set up, giving is a one-touch process.



☞ CALENDAR ☞

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 9:30am Men's Chorale (Sanc)
 9:30am Sunday School Hour
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 12:00pm **CHILI COOK-OFF AND
 DESSERT AUCTION (FLC)**
 5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)
 6:00pm Saddles n Such 4-H (FH)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:30am BSF Leaders (ZOOM)
 12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
 6:00pm Call Team (204)
 6:00pm Exercise Class (FLC)
 6:00pm Small Group (101)
 6:30pm Life to Life Discipleship Training
 (304)
 6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)
 7:00pm Sarah Circle (103-4)
 7:00pm Respect Life (102)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
 9:00am Private Event (Chapel)
 9:30am Quilters (103-4)
 6:00pm Internship Team (Lib)
 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (103-4)
 7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:30am BSF (ZOOM)
 12:30pm Small Group (102)
 3:00pm Home School Acting Class (FLC)
 7:00pm AA Design for Living (FH)
 7:00pm **Thanksgiving Eve Worship (Sanc)**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED
 Happy Thanksgiving!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

OFFICE CLOSED
 9:00am **Decorate the Church**
 8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (SH [FH])

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 9:30am Men's Chorale (Sanc)
 9:30am Sunday School Hour
 10:45am Children's Church (103-4)
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 2:00pm **Service of Comfort and
 Remembrance (Sanc, FLC)**
 5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

**DAILY AND WEEKLY UPDATES
 ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES.
 BE SURE TO CHECK THEM OUT!**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Faith Discussion, FH Rm 001 / 1 Corinthians, Steve Johnston, Chapel / 2 Peter, Rick Butsko, 102 / Parenting Topics, Amy Wanner, 103-4.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: 2-4 years old, Rm 003 / age 5 & Kindergarten-Grade 2, Rm 310 / Grades 3-4, Rm 307 / Grades 5-6, Rm 303 / Grades 7-8, Confirmation Room, 304 / Grades 9-12, High School Room, 311.

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