

NEWS NOTES

November 29-30, 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: *Christine Hank*

Ushers

4:00pm: *Michael Gibboney, Steve Henry*

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

11:00am: *Don Carducci, David Clark, Bill Diehl, Dennis Imbrock*

Readers

4:00pm: *Holly Starr*

8:15am: *Morgan von Lohr*

11:00am: *Christine Hank*

Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich*

Altar Guild

Bill and Linda Diehl

David and Lisa Stallard

Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich*

Acolytes

8:15am: *Truman Allman, Hope Katterhenrich*

11:00am: *Volunteers Needed*

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: *Lisa Dubos*

8:15am: *Paul Wittenberg, Kathy Myers*

11:00am: **Volunteers Needed (3)**

Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich, Jackie Rutan, Kate Shrum*

Lessons Today: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

FLOWERS: Given by Ed and Glenda Sheets.

BULLETINS: In honor of my friend, Catherine. Given by Armand Arabian.

BULLETINS: Given by Rhonda Maynard.

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REMEMBRANCE: The Service of Comfort and Remembrance is **today, 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 FLC.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS!**

The Season of Advent - Advent begins this weekend, November 30th

Christmas Eve Worship - Thursday, December 24th

Services will take place at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm

Christmas Day Worship - Friday, December 25th

Service on Christmas morning will take place at 10:00am

THE MITTEN TREE: Today is your last chance to bless our neighbors via the Mitten Tree! The items decorating our tree will be taken to the Purple Door Free Store, where they will be distributed to our neighbors in need. Thank you for helping our community stay warm!

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.

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

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.

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, December 7.

Monday, December 1

Take a moment to reflect on yesterday's readings, sermon, and service. What stood out to you? What is God calling you to as a result?

Tuesday, December 2 – Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

- The shoot is referring to a specific person. Who do you think this shoot is?
- What does it mean that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him?

Wednesday, December 3 – Reading: Psalm 72

- This Psalm speaks of Jesus caring for and rescuing the poor and afflicted. How can we do the same for those around us?

Thursday, December 4 – Reading: Romans 15:4-13

- What about Jesus brings you the most hope?

Friday, December 5 – Reading: Matthew 3:1-2

- The word “repent” means “to completely turn away from”. It’s like you’re facing the blaring sun, and you repent, by turning away from it so that it no longer blinds you. We are to repent from our sins (things we do wrong) and are to follow Jesus. Pray about what you may need to turn away from, and then ask Jesus for the strength to do so.

Saturday, December 6

Take a moment to pray for our services tomorrow and for the world during this season of Advent. Heavenly Father, as we await the coming of Jesus to rule and to reign, we ask that you soften the hearts of all around the world that all would come to know you and love you. In this season of joy and busy-ness, please grant our pastors, our staff, 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. In Jesus’ Name, **Amen**.

ANGEL TREE: It's that wonderful time again—our Angel Tree is up and located in the North Entrance. 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.

UPDATING CHURCH INFORMATION: It's directory refresh time! We'll be snapping quick photos by the tree in the Link on December 14th and 21st during the Sunday School Hour (9:30–10:30am). After that, we'll send you an email to double-check your info. It's super quick—come on down and get your family's picture taken!

QUILTERS' CHRISTMAS BAG ASSEMBLY: The Quilters will meet on Tuesday, **December 2, 2025**, to fill the 100 Christmas Bags in rooms 103-4 from 9:30am–noon. We are usually finished before noon. Your friendship and help in filling the bags for the children whose family rely on the Grove City Food Pantry will be gratefully appreciated. Come and see all the donations and the generosity of our congregation. We hope the Christmas Bags will give the children a bit of Christian love and happiness at Christmas time. *P.S.—Don't forget the Quilters' Quilt sale on December 13-14, 2025.*

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE! On **Saturday, December 13th** from 9am–noon in rooms 103-4, we will be holding our annual Christmas Cookie and other Christmas Goodies Sale. We are asking for **HOMEMADE** items only. **We need MANY cookies and goodies to make this event successful.**

Again this year, you will be able to choose your cookies for your plates, or we will have prepackaged plates if you prefer. Baked goods can be dropped off by 8:30am on Friday, December 12th in the Family Life Center Kitchen. If you are available Saturday to help, please mark the salmon sheet in the bulletin, or you can call Sue Sutton, 614-539-9544 or Suzie Brace, 614-313-1364. **Proceeds from our sale will go to the Kitchen Fund.**

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you to all who built a shoebox and donated money or items. Please continue to pray for boys and girls in need around the world, local churches who deliver shoebox gifts, children disciplined through the Greatest Journey, and for volunteers worldwide.



Thanks again for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child! St. John's brought joy to children in need around the world. Packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, these gifts bring joy and are a tangible expression of God's love. These simple gifts bring smiles to the faces of children around the world. *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him."* - Psalm 145:18.

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. If you have questions, contact Bruce or Karen Whyte, 614-878-9392. THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO ALL! *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."*

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!**

PRAYERS AND PINS—2026: St. John's Bowling Club at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl (3224 S High St, Columbus 43207, 614-491-7155). The cost is \$15 per person weekly. If you are not present, you may pay the following week.

1. Club will bowl at 3:00pm on Sundays from January 4th to mid-March.
2. Checks should be made out to WWCB.
3. We will bowl 2 games each week.
4. Teams will consist of 2 players, and substitutions are welcome.

Plan to have a great time! **No worries if you are a rookie—it's about having fun!** Contact Dave or Karen Grossman, 614-579-8037, or Jo Dimond, 614-270-3291, jodimond@aol.com. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS!

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.

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 23 - 300

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

MEN'S CHORALE: Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

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.

☞ CALENDAR ☞

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

MITTEN TREE FINAL COLLECTION

8:15am Traditional Worship (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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:30am BSF Leaders
11:00am Property Team (204)
12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
6:00pm Call Team (204)
6:30pm Elizabeth Circle (103-4)
6:30pm Life to Life Discipleship Training (304)
6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

RAISE RIGHT ORDER DEADLINE

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
9:30am Quilters' Christmas Bag Stuffing (103-4)
7:00pm SW Historical Society (103-4)
7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (FLC)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30am BSF
12:30pm Small Group (102)
3:00pm Home School Acting Class (FLC)
6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Design for Living (FH)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
3:00pm Bulletin Team (Lib)
5:00pm Children's Choir (Chapel)
5:30pm Christmas Program Rehearsal (FLC)
6:15pm Celebration Ringers Reh. (Sanc)
8:00pm Dartball (away)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30am Bible Study (103-4)
2:00pm Private Event (101)
3:00pm Men's Chorale (Sanc)
6:00pm Private Event (FLC)
8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:00pm Private Event (FLC)
4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (SH [FH])

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

BLESS THE BIKES

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS DELIVERY DAY

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School Hour
11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
1:00pm Private Event (FLC)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

Please note: The office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and January 1st.

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