

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

DATED MATERIALS

DECEMBER 2025

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

DECEMBER 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 BSF Leaders 9:30am Property Team 11am Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Life to Life Discipleship Training 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	2 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning 11am Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm	3 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Home School Acting Class 3pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	4 Promise Keepers 8am Bulletin Team 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)	5 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	6 Private Event 9am Private Event 1pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seek. AA 7pm	
7 CHRISTMAS KINDNESS DELIVERIES Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Private Event 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm	8 Private Event 8am BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Home School Acting Class 3pm Call Team 6pm Small Group 6pm Life to Life Discipleship Training 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Finance Team 7pm	9 Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am Home School Acting Class 3pm Executive Team 5:30pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 6:15pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	10 EAGLE DEADLINE BSF 9:30am Small Group 1:30pm Home School Acting Class 3pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	11 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 2pm Bulletin Team 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Christmas Program Rehearsal 5:30pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Home School Acting Performance 7pm Dartball 8pm (away)	12 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Piano Recital 5:30pm Home School Acting Performance 7pm Piano Recital 7:30pm AA 8:30pm	13 ANNUAL COOKIES & GOODIES SALE 9am QUILT SALE 9am Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Girl Scouts #6300 10am Traditional Worship 4pm Otterbein University Choir Concert 6pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
14 Traditional Worship 8:15am QUILT SALE 9am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Children's Church 10:45am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DINNER THEATER 5pm	15 Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Sarah Circle 6pm Small Group 6pm Life to Life Discipleship Training 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	16 Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am Friends of the Library 5:50pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	17 Small Group 1:30pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	18 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Bulletin Team 3pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)	19 OWLS 11:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Private Event 6pm AA 8:30pm	20 HOLLYSTOCK 2pm Private Event 2pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
21 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Men's Chorale 9:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	22 Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Respect Life 7pm	23 Men's Prayer Group 7am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Worship 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm AA Design for Living 7pm	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Morning Worship 10am	26 AA 8:30pm	27 Private Event 12pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm
28 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Children's Church 10:45am Trad. & Cont. Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm	29 Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm	30 Men's Prayer Group 7am Private Event 10am CHRISTMAS BREAK BULLETIN BOARD BUILDING 1pm Internship Team 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm	31 Small Group 1:30pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm	January 1, 2026 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!		

DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS BREAK BULLETIN BOARD BUILDING:

Calling all 7th-12th graders who want to be creative and have a time of fellowship over Christmas break!



We are hosting an afternoon to redesign our youth bulletin boards with fresh new themes and ideas. Come for snacks, fellowship and creative bulletin board building!

We will meet on Tuesday, December 30th from 1-4pm in the confirmation room to get started.

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE



Can you believe summer is over, fall has begun, and winter is very close by? If you are to believe the Farmer's Almanac, our area is to be colder than normal with more precipitation. So, with that in mind, I will again be asking for donations of winter coats, hats, gloves and blankets.

This year I have chosen HM3, which stands for Hoge Music, Message, and Meals, to be the recipient of our donations. These will be offered at no charge to those attending a weekly service at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, located on West Broad Street in the Hilltop. They have a connection with Columbus City Schools, so some of our items may be offered to them.

You can drop off your items any time now through February. There is a collection container in the Link. If you have any questions, you may call Bruce and Karen Whyte at 614-878-9392.

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." - Matthew: 25:40 -

Relationships are important to us at St. John's!

We want to surround our children and youth with lots of faith-filled relationships between all age groups 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.



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS!

Advent Children's Church during Contemporary Worship.

Christmas Kindness on Sunday afternoon December 7th.

Children's Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday evening December 14th.

Children's Choir singing at the 4pm Christmas Eve Worship Service.

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

HOL(L)YSTOCK: 7th-12th graders are invited to Hol(l)ystock on Saturday, December 20th starting at 2pm. This year Hol(l)ystock will include an overnigher with fun, fellowship, a trip to ZooLights, evening vespers, breakfast with an adult Sunday School class, FOOD and so much more! See Gini Rogers or Donna Westerfeld for more information and look for a permission slip soon.

ADVENTURE CLUB and FAITH TREK: We take the month of December off so families can enjoy Christmas traditions and special activities at church and school. We start again in the new year on January 8th.

EXPLORERS and ENERGIZERS They will not meet the month of December but start again in the new year on January 7th.

HIGH SCHOOL IQA BIBLE STUDY meets with Gini on Mondays over Zoom at 6pm.

A PARENTING GROUP meets every Sunday, 9:30-10:30am in Room 103-104, with Amy Wanner. Stop by and join the conversation. It's a great place to be encouraged and feel supported.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages, meets from 9:30am—10:30am. Our Sunday School Superintendent is Tim Allman. See Tim about what opportunities await you!

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 if you would like to receive one on the notepad provided, and there will be a box for you 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.





1998 CHRISTMAS POEM by Ruth Mason

I take this once a year in time...

To say you're thought of in my rhyme...

All my wishes from the past...

I still mean and hope they last...

May God's blessings come to you...

Now and in everything you do...

I wish for you a New Year of Hope...

With nothing of which you can not cope...

And pray the past year was kind and true...

Remembering the things of value...

Like our loving family and friends...

We can only reap the dividends...

Don't forget to remember Christ's birth...

That's the only thing this season's worth...

Without Him there would be no Christmas...

As all shall see, as the time will pass...

So enjoy your gifts of love and food...

Just remember what else to include...

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

St. John's Pays It Forward

St. John's Lutheran Church Grants awarded to Two Ohio Churches

St. John's is pleased to announce the award of grants of \$5,000 each to two Ohio NALC churches: Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Lucas, OH and Groveport Zion Lutheran Church in Groveport, OH.

We at St. John's were blessed to be able to complete our own Building Accessibility Project last year without debt, due to the great generosity of individuals as well as other churches. Upon completion of that project, \$10,000 of the remaining funds were set aside to pay that generosity forward and aid other churches in the NALC with their own building or remodeling projects.

The one-time grant application was opened to any NALC church in Ohio in May of 2025. After consideration of the many worthwhile projects for which the grant committee received applications, two were chosen to receive \$5,000 each. The funds were disbursed in August of 2025.

Mt. Zion Lutheran's project was to update and improve their property to allow it to be used for a Christian daycare. This will expand their outreach and provide a badly needed resource in their community. They are excited to announce that their new childcare facility was able to open at the beginning of October and they asked me to pass on their gratitude to the people of St. John's for the gift that helped them achieve their goal.

Zion Lutheran of Groveport applied for grant funding to aid in the replacement of damaged and inoperable windows in their fellowship hall, originally installed in 1965. The building is used heavily by the church and many community organizations, so functioning windows are a matter of both safety and comfort. Installation of their new windows was scheduled for November and they also have shared their great thankfulness to be able to go ahead with this project.

Thank you to the people of St. John's for your faithful generosity that allowed our congregation to reach out a helping hand to other churches. Keep an eye out for a future display of the photos of both of these projects.

In Christ's Service,
Amy Wanner
St. John's Lutheran Church Grant Committee

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE



As in previous years, the Sanctuary of St. John's will be filled with the beauty of red poinsettias as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. Each plant will be in a 6.5-inch pot and is available for purchase. The cost of each poinsettia is \$8.00. You may place an order by sending a completed form along with your payment to the office, or placing it in the offering plate. Make checks payable to St. John's and note "For Poinsettia Order."

Orders must be received no later than Sunday, December 21st.

The flowers may be taken after our Christmas service on December 25th.

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

___ I will be picking my flowers up by December 28th.

___ I wish to donate my flowers to shut-ins.

NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) ORDERING: _____

PHONE No. _____ (In case of questions)

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS _____ \$8.00 ea. = _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT (mark one) Cash ☐ Check ☐

GIVEN BY: _____

(How your names will appear in the service folder - i.e. The Davis Family, or Art and Frieda Davis)

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

ANNUAL VETERANS LUNCHEON Summary and Thank You

Our 13th Annual Veterans Luncheon was held on Sunday, November 2, 2025, with approximately 115 veterans, family members, and friends attending. Pastor Patti Morlock emceed our program and did a wonderful job! St. John's member Steve Johnston stood in for Mayor Stage who was unavailable. Steve did a great job presenting our three honored veterans beautiful eagle plaques for their services.



The three Golden Veterans this year are Warren Althoff, Jim Rorick, and Mel Penrod.

Warren Althoff joined the US Marine Corps and served as a corporal and rifleman from 1971 to 1977. He served at Camp Pendleton and San Diego, CA and was based out of Toledo, OH. During this time, he spent two weeks each summer serving across the US, including at Camp Grayling, MI; Coronado, CA; Norfolk, VA, and near Fairfield, AK, where he guarded the Alaskan pipeline. He was married to Joyce from 1974 until she passed in 2017.

Jim Rorick served in the US Air Force. His specialty was electronics at Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. He also served at Keflavik Air Station in Iceland, Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, TX and in Northwest Texas. Jim married Carol in 1977, and they've been married for 48 years.

Mel Penrod enjoyed a 26-year career in the US Navy, where he retired as Chief E-8. His assignments included a deep water mission in Pensacola, FL; service aboard the aircraft carrier the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower; and duties in the western Pacific, the northern gulf of Vietnam, Loma, CA, and Lakehurst, NJ. He did advanced training of meteorology and oceanology on the USS Eisenhower, traveled to many countries, and met Pope John Paul II. He was also selected to do a weather and acoustic condition for President Jimmy Carter. Mel has been married to Carol for 25 years.

Special thank you to Demorest Rd. American Legion Post 532 for presenting the flag and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. They also played taps and performed the gun salute. Thank you to Kate Shrum for singing us a beautiful rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. Thank you to Hunter Thompson for his part in our program, as well as a special thank you to St. John's teens and Grove City ROTC for serving the delicious meal prepared by Elaine Bennett's crew. Thank you to everyone else who helped with this special program, but most of all thank you to our wonderful veterans for serving our country. God bless our veterans.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who filled 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 learning through the Greatest Journey
- * Volunteers worldwide

*"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him."
~ Psalm 145:18 ~*

Thanks again for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child!

This year we donated 115 boxes!

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.

AVERIL IS MOVING ON DECEMBER 12TH TO STORYPOINT 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

GOD'S LOVE UNIVERSITY (GLU) THANK YOU

I wanted to sincerely thank you for you and St. John's generous gift to the college students. I apologize about the late email reply about it, but it made my day seeing a gift from the church.

It's been several weeks since receiving said mail, but I can assure you I am still working my way through all of the goodies the church has left for me!

Nonetheless, I pray that you, as well as St. John's is doing very well, and I look forward to coming back soon enough!

God Bless,

Blake Lang

Thank you, St. John's congregation,
for your support of our Baby Bottle Campaign earlier this year!

Those bottles supported the Pregnancy Decision Help Centers (PDHC) with \$568.85, which they used to support moms and families at a critical moment in their lives. The Centers give women and girls pregnancy tests, ultrasound scans, diapers and baby clothes, cribs and carseats, and warm, Christ-centered support, always free and confidential.

If you'd like to volunteer with PDHC or have any questions, you can contact them at 614-444-4411 or pdhc.org. If you would like to donate any baby or mom supplies or equipment, please put them in the Respect Life cupboard in the Link. And please join us at our Respect Life meeting on the last Monday of each month at church at 7pm. Thank you for upholding God's gift of life!



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!

TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

PLEASE NOTE: The Exercise Class will not meet in the month of December. We will return January 12, 2026. Please call Diane Sexton at 678-572-0308 if you are interested in joining us next year.

Merry Christmas!

PROMISE KEEPERS

will not be meeting on December 25, 2025,
nor on January 1, 2026.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF NOVEMBER 9TH, 2025

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Philip Pennington** by Joseph and Megan Brubaker

Given in memory of **Doris Finley** by Richard and Shelah Stage;
Keith and Jane Stenerson; Dellno and Betty Lewis;
Suzie Long; and Beth Katterhenrich

Memorial Youth Fund

Given in honor of **Brock and Grace Starr's anniversary** by Kevin and Holly Starr

Music Fund

Given in memory of **Charles Hirth** by Larry and Becky Link

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, December 13th at 9am
and Tuesday, December 23rd at 6pm in Room 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 Room 103-4. Contact the leaders listed for more information.

Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Amy Shaw
614-496-2890

Monday, December 1st at 6:30pm

Sarah Circle
Contact
Wilma Phillips
614-875-7931

Monday, December 15th at 6:00pm

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS!

The Season of Advent

Advent begins on the weekend of 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



St. John's will be hosting a
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
in the Family Life Center on **TUESDAY,**
DECEMBER 23rd from 12-6 pm.

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



Quilters

Thank you to everyone for your donations to help fill the 100 Christmas bags to be given to the children whose families use the food pantry at the Grove City Methodist "Purple Door" Church. Many thanks to all who donated the beloved candy and other items for the children. We hope the bags bring a bit of Christian love and joy to the children.

The Quilters wish to thank Grove City Family Dentistry on Columbus Street for the donation of 100 sets of toothcare items for the Christmas bags. These are much appreciated donations. The children will enjoy their child-friendly brushes.

Your help will be greatly appreciated in helping to fill the bags on December 2, 2025, in rooms 103-104 from 9:30am- around noon. Please come and see the generosity of our congregation with the mounds of candy and other items for the bags.

The Quilters' Christmas quilt sale this year is on December 13-14, 2025, during the cookie sale. Quilt-filled tables will be set up in the Link. Most of the quilts are in the range of \$20-\$45. The proceeds from the sale go to church groups and various charities.

The Quilters thank so many generous people for their time, effort and resources to make our ministry a success this past year. The Quilters are very appreciative of your caring spirit.

If you find you have extra time at home this winter and would like to make a quilt top or a complete a quilt to donate to a charity, we can furnish the material, other supplies, and encouragement at no cost to you. Call the church to set up a time to make your selection of materials.

The Quilters meet most Tuesdays in rooms 103-4 from 9:30am -1:30pm or thereabouts. Come whenever you can make time. No commitment is necessary. Most of the quilts are sewn with 6" squares and using square knots or machine stitching to tie the layers together. If you would rather work with a finished quilt top made by someone else, we have several tops needing a liner, backing, ties, and hemming. All quilting supplies are provided.

If you prefer, you may want to cut canceled stamps or just come and sit and visit for a while. Come any time and leave any time you want. We don't punch a timecard. Our last meeting of 2025 will be December 16, 2025.

*"Dear God, please help me find the strength to face the days
when I feel uncertain about the year ahead. Amen."*

OWLS EVENT—DECEMBER 19, 2025

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) are making plans for Christmas! Where are we going to be for Christmas Eve? Christmas Day? Which service are we going to attend? Are we going to have house guests over the holiday? What delicious traditional Christmas dishes are on the menu? And of course, the OWLS want to remind you to mark your calendar for Friday, December 19th to join us for our annual Christmas lunch and party. Doesn't matter if you've been naughty or nice!!! What a great opportunity to celebrate with friends.

In addition to our lunch, we have a couple of surprises planned for you. Including music, singing and an extra special guest (Hint: only available at St. John's)! Old friends, new friends, and guests are invited, but make sure to make a reservation!



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. Alternatively, you may call the church office or Bonnie Swanson 614-562-8002. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Season at St. John's



Cookie Sale:

On Saturday, December 13th from 9 am – Noon in rooms 103-104, we will be holding our annual Christmas Cookie and Goodie Sale.

We are asking for **HOMEMADE ITEMS ONLY**. Again this year, you will be able to choose your own cookies for your platter. We will have prepackaged plates also if you would prefer those.

Baked goods can be dropped off by 8:30 am on Friday, December 12th in the Family Life Center Kitchen.

If you don't want to bake but want to help in another way, you can make a monetary donation to the Kitchen Fund would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sale on Saturday, December 14th. If you are available Saturday, please mark the salmon insert in the bulletin or you can call Sue Sutton, 614-539-9544 or Suzie Brace, 614-871-3201.

Proceeds from our sale will go to the Kitchen Fund.



Christmas Dinner Theater:



Join us Sunday, December 14th at 5:00pm for our annual Christmas Dinner Theater. This year's program will feature Sunday School Students, and more! Dinner will be served at 5pm and the program will begin immediately following dinner. Please bring a dessert to share when the program ends. All are welcome, so please be sure to invite friends, family, and neighbors! Suggested dinner donation for adults is \$6.00 and \$5.00 for children. We can always use extra hands to set up and clean-up for this event. Watch for more information about this event in the weekly bulletin or feel free to contact Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org with any questions or if you would like to help.

Christmas Season at St. John's



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 insert in your bulletin or email Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org to sign up. We're hoping to visit about 60 members and households, so the more, the merrier!

Angel Trees:

It's that wonderful time again — our Angel Trees are going up! 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, and return it—with the angel attached to the gift to church by Sunday, December 14th. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more details. Questions? Reach out to Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org.



TIPS FOR HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS WHEN GRIEVING

1. **DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN HANDLE COMFORTABLY AND LET FAMILY AND FRIENDS KNOW.** Can I handle the responsibility of the family dinner, etc. or shall I ask someone else to do it? Do I want to talk about my loved one or not? Shall stay here for the holidays or go to a completely different environment?
2. **MAKE SOME CHANGES IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE FOR YOU.** Open presents Christmas Eve instead of Christmas morning. Vary the timing of gift giving. Have dinner at a different time or place. Let the children take over decorating the house, the tree, baking, and food preparation, etc.
3. **RE-EXAMINE YOUR PRIORITIES: GREETING CARDS, HOLIDAY BAKING, DECORATING, PUTTING UP A TREE, FAMILY DINNER, ETC.** Do I really enjoy doing this? Is this a task that can be shared?
4. **CONSIDER DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE ELSE.** Donate a gift in memory of your loved one. Donate money you would have spent on your loved one as a gift to charity. Adopt a needy family for the holidays. Invite a guest (foreign student, senior citizen) to share festivities.
5. **RECOGNIZE YOUR LOVED ONE'S PRESENCE IN THE FAMILY.** Burn a special candle to quietly include your loved one. Hang a stocking for your loved one in which people can put notes with their thoughts or feelings. Listen to music especially like by the deceased. Look at photographs.
6. **IF YOU DECIDE TO DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING,** MAKE A LIST AHEAD OF TIME AND KEEP IT HANDY FOR A GOOD DAY, OR SHOP ONLINE OR THROUGH CATALOGS.
7. **OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS IN WAYS WHICH ARE COMFORTABLE FOR YOU.** There is no right or wrong way of handling holidays. Once you've decided how to observe the time, let others know.
8. **TRY TO GET ENOUGH REST – HOLIDAYS CAN BE EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY DRAINING.**
9. **ALLOW YOURSELF TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS.** Holidays often magnify feelings of loss. It is natural to feel sadness. Share concerns, apprehensions, feelings with a friend. The need for support is often greater during holidays.
10. **KEEP IN MIND THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY BEREAVED PERSONS IS THAT THEY DO COME TO ENJOY HOLIDAYS AGAIN.** THERE WILL BE OTHER HOLIDAY SEASONS TO CELEBRATE.
11. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO HAVE FUN.** Laughter and joy are not disrespectful. Give yourself and your family members permission to celebrate and take pleasure in the holidays.

Church Family,

Gary Chapman once wrote a book called the 5 Love Languages. In this book, he says that there are 5 ways that love can be expressed and received. They are Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, Physical Touch, and Words of Affirmation. One of my main love languages is Words of Affirmation - this means that I feel the most loved when others tell me that I am valued.

This is why I love Christmas Cards. It is the one time of year, where people tend to send cards, and some with little hand-written notes that express appreciation for friendship. Unlike on birthdays, we don't just send a card to one or two people, but to as many friends and family as we can - or as many as we can afford. (My husband and I have taken to sending digital Christmas cards as a more cost effective way to express our Christmas Cheer.)

I bring this up because I believe that God too speaks to us in these 5 love languages. He gives us the gift of the Fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He yearns to spend quality time with us as we worship, read His Word, and pray. We get to feel his touch as we receive the sacraments, We get to hear words of affirmation as we read Psalm 139 which tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. And He speaks to us through acts of service through being born of a virgin, in a manger, living a sinless life, dying on the cross for our sins, and rising again, conquering sin and death. What a gift it is, what a treasure, to know that Jesus loves us each so much that He speaks to us, individually in these ways.

It is at Christmas and during Advent, that we remember these acts of service, which showed us the deep love of the Father. It is at Christmas that we are more inclined to love our neighbors and show kindness to all mankind, and it is at Christmas that many will come into our church doors, maybe for the first time.

My plea is this: be welcoming and loving to the newcomer and the regular alike. Live out the call to love our neighbors. Invite others to church that they can experience the love you've found in Jesus. Check on those who have lost loved ones. And let us remind one another why Jesus coming to us in the form of a poor baby in a manger changes everything!

May the Lord bless you and keep you this season! Happy birthday, Jesus!

Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Service,

Billie Jo

Billie Jo Fisch, Pastoral Intern

**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 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!

**THE OTTERBEIN CHOIR
WILL PERFORM THEIR
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
AT ST. JOHN'S**

Saturday, December 13th at 6pm

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.

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
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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 article deadline for the JANUARY 2026
Eagle is DECEMBER 10TH.**
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 **Doris Finley**,
who passed away October 17, 2025

The family and friends of **Jan Evans**,
who passed away October 31, 2025

The family and friends of **Norma Jean
Dumm**, sister of Joy McClure,
who passed away October 31, 2025



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



JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship:

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

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 11:00am

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, Bonnie Swanson,
Amy Wanner, Paul Wittenberg.



The Eagle

December 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,

It's only the beginning of December, but already we're tired of all things Christmas. Christmas music started literally the day after Halloween. Christmas decorations shared a place in the store aisles with pumpkins and goblins and the big box stores Muzak has been piping Holly Jollies for some time now. Be honest, how many of you have decorations up and presents already bought? I know for sure many of you have been baking your Christmas cookies for some time now and I've had the chance to sample a few and they are delicious!

But this is the Season of Advent. It's a time of expectant and hopeful waiting. It's a time of preparation of a different kind. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.

During Advent, as God's people, we're called to slow down and allow all that is holy to enter into our day to day. I know—right smack in the busiest time of the year—how—inconvenient!

Advent is a time to open up the broken and crooked places in our hurting hearts and allow room for the healing grace of God to enter in and make straight the way for peace. Let every heart prepare Him room!

Advent is not a season of passive waiting and watching, but of opening our lives in active anticipation and renewed hope for the One who is to come.

The Advent lessons are powerful reminders to be ready, not for meals and gifts and family gatherings, but “for the Son of Man who is coming at an hour we do not expect.” (Matthew 24:44)

As we hit the stores this Christmas season, may our gift giving be more thought-filled and less frantic. May our Advent be a time that is less about “getting ready for the holidays” and more about “making ready our hearts”.

May this Advent season not only prepare us for the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, but make us expectant for the day of Christ to come when the reign of God and His Kingdom are made fully know! O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Looking Forward in Faith,

Pastor Patti