

NEWS NOTES

December 6-7, 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 Don Allman



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: Cheryl Thompson
ND: Carol Rich

Ushers

4:00pm: Michael Gibboney, Steve Henry
8:15am: Steve Marcum, David Sweeley,
Hunter Thompson
11:00am: Bill Diehl, George Gonsowski,
Dennis Imbrock, Larry Sutton

Readers

4:00pm: Barb Hill
8:15am: Pam Wittenberg
11:00am: Sheryl Fraley
Contemporary: Jackie Rutan, Lydia Shrum

Altar Guild

Lynda Berry, Shelia Holcomb, Sarah
Schmitz
Donna Linder, Gloria Biggs
Contemporary: Rachel Katterhenrich

Acolytes

8:15am: Ben Previts
11:00am: Eva Counts

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: Barb Hill
8:15am: Ann Jones, Sarah Schmitz
11:00am: Dan Yeater, Ike Stage, Brenda
Schultz
Contemporary: Rachel Katterhenrich, Jackie
Rutan, Kate Shrum

Lessons Today: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: and to the dedicated staff at St John's. Given anonymously.
BULLETINS: Given by Ike and Shelah Stage.

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of **Ralph Johnston**, who passed away on December 2, 2025. All who grieve are in our hearts and prayers.

THANK YOU FROM THE QUILTERS: The 100 Christmas Bags were filled for the Grove City Food Pantry at the "Purple Door" Methodist Church on December 2, 2025. We were able to fill the bags in one hour with the gracious help of Barb Armentrout, David Chenault, Linda Chenault, Ashton Hogle, Kenzlynn Hogle, Pat Marie, Sharon McGuire, Charlotte Rausch, Keith Stenerson, Jane Stenerson, Linda Vogel, Bill Woodgeard, Gayle Woodgeard, and Mary Young. Vicar Billie Fisch offered a prayer that blessed the children who will receive the bags. The Quilters thank you all for your donations of candy, crayons, combs, soft toys, glue sticks, small notebooks and many other items. We could not have done the bags without the congregation's concern and donations. The Quilters hope we show the children a bit of Christmas caring and love with the bags. Thank you for helping our ministry.

☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of Communion Assistants for 11am traditional worship services! Please consider serving in this very important ministry. It does not require any extra time, just the time you are already here at church. People typically serve just 6 times a year, one Sunday every other month. It's not a huge commitment, but a very important one. It's a moving experience to serve the Lord's Supper to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. If you feel called to serve in this important ministry, please contact Lisa Stallard by phone/text at 614-284-6692 or email, l.stallard15@gmail.com.

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.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS!

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

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION TEAM: On the first Sunday of each month this team comes to receive a Holy Communion kit. The distribution of home communion is an extension of the Lord's Supper and is for those who are unable to be present at the celebration of the congregation. We bring to them the same bread of life and the same cup of blessing so that they may be strengthened through their participation in the body of Christ. Let us be mindful of and grateful for this ministry.

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 today, December 7th** and may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the secure drop box by 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!**

EAGLE DEADLINE is this coming Wednesday.

Please submit your article by noon on **January 10th**.

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 next Sunday, December 14th**. If you have any questions please contact Megan Grossman, 614-905-2629.

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 14.

Monday, December 8

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 9 - Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

This whole passage is about things being made right, whole, and new. What do you most look forward to being made right when you meet Jesus?

Wednesday, December 10 - Reading: Psalm 146:5-10

What is something that you can say that you've done all of your life?

Thursday, December 11 - Reading: James 5:7-10

Are you good at being patient? Why or why not?

Friday, December 12 - Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

List 5 things that John the Baptist is to be told about Jesus in this passage.

Saturday, December 13

Take a moment to pray for those who do not have enough to eat this season of Advent.

Heavenly Father, as we await the coming of Jesus to rule and to reign, we ask that fill the bellies of those who do not have enough to eat this Advent season. Please guide us in our giving so that we can provide for others in need. Please continue to 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**.

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.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE IS HERE! Next 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 are in need of **MANY** cookies/goodies in order to make this event successful. Again, this year we will have prepackaged plates or you may choose your own cookies for your plates. Tell a friend and come get some Christmas goodies! Baked goods can be dropped off in the Family Life Center Kitchen starting Friday, December 12th at 8:30am. **Proceeds from our sale will go to the Kitchen Fund.**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DINNER THEATER: Join us next Sunday, December 14th at 5pm 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. Contact Megan Grossman at mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org or 614-905-2629 with any questions or if you would like to help.

OTTERBEIN CHOIR AT ST. JOHN'S – Next 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.

QUILTERS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUILT SALE: Don't forget the Quilters' Quilt Sale is next weekend, **December 13-14 from 9am to 12pm**. Most are priced under \$40. The quilts are fashioned from your donated fabric. Come see the craftswomanship of the items. The proceeds go to church related activities and charities. Most of the unsold quilts are given to children's charities. Thank you for your interest in the Quilters' ministry.

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!

UPDATING CHURCH INFORMATION – DATE CHANGE: We will be starting to update the directory in January 2026. At that time, we will take individual and family photos in the Link. Keep your eyes on the NewsNotes for more information! If you have any questions in the meantime, reach out to Megan Grossman.

WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will hold its next meetings on **Saturday, December 13th at 9am and on Tuesday, December 23rd at 6pm in Rooms 103-4.** Everyone is welcome. Bring your knitting/crochet materials and any completed shawls to be blessed with prayer. Anyone can learn to knit or crochet with our help! For more info call Glenda at 614-352-5955 or Diana at 614-271-5775.

OWLS EVENT – Friday, 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 remind you 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, goodies 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. You may call the office or Bonnie Swanson 614-562-8002.

Hope to see you there!

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 SHORT-TERM MISSIONS!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on **Tuesday, December 23rd** in the Family Life Center from 12pm to 6pm. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2776) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: StJohnsGC.

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) and 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. *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!

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.

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.

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.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm.

☿ 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 one more Thursday night practice on December 11th from 5:30-7:15 with dinner provided. We will have our final practice on Sunday, December 14th during the Sunday School Hour.

Peace Abounding

*Find the 35 **bold** words from Psalm 72:1-7 (ESV)*

M	F	B	O	H	M	D	F	N	U	Q	G	W	S	N
O	L	E	I	P	N	P	U	A	Y	J	N	A	N	O
O	E	L	A	E	P	S	V	F	R	U	I	T	O	S
N	L	C	F	R	H	R	L	V	Y	D	K	E	I	C
S	S	E	N	S	U	O	E	T	H	G	I	R	T	H
R	D	F	N	A	U	G	I	S	Y	E	S	L	A	I
E	O	L	M	R	R	R	R	S	S	F	R	E	R	L
W	V	Y	I	R	E	E	M	A	E	O	A	C	E	D
O	A	S	A	P	J	J	V	O	S	R	R	S	N	R
H	H	I	S	L	Q	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	E	E
S	N	O	E	S	U	A	C	H	L	E	Q	D	G	N
K	R	A	B	O	U	N	D	J	S	E	V	D	N	R
P	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	U	D	I	O	E
E	C	A	E	P	N	F	A	L	L	S	R	O	G	G
B	E	A	R	N	W	O	M	X	L	B	P	C	H	G






Give the **king** your **justice**, O **God**, and your **righteousness** to the **royal son**! May he **judge** your people with righteousness, and your **poor** with justice! Let the **mountains bear prosperity** for the people, and the **hills**, in righteousness! May he **defend** the **cause** of the poor of the people, give **deliverance** to the **children** of the needy, and **crush** the **oppressor**! May they **fear** you while the **sun endures**, and as long as the **moon**, throughout **all generations**! May he be like **rain** that **falls** on the **mown grass**, like **showers** that **water** the **earth**! In his days may the righteous **flourish**, and **peace abound**, till the moon be no more!

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

ATTENDANCE November 30 - 247

**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.
- 

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, DECEMBER 7

BLESS THE BIKES

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS (FLC)

- 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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 9:30am BSF Leaders (101-4, FLC Kit, FH)
- 11:00am Private Event (FLC)
- 12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
- 3:00pm Acting Class Rehearsal (FLC)
- 6:00pm Call Team (204)
- 6:00pm Small Group (102)
- 6:30pm Life to Life Discipleship Trng. (304)
- 6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)
- 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)
- 7:00pm Finance Team (103-4)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
- 9:30am Quilters (103-4)
- 11:00am Funeral Service (Sanc, FLC, Kit)
- 3:00pm Acting Class Rehearsal (FLC)
- 6:00pm Executive Team (Lib)
- 6:15pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild (FH)
- 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (103-4)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

JANUARY EAGLE ARTICLES DUE

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
- 3:00pm Bulletin Team (Lib)
- 5:30pm Christmas Program Rehearsal (FH, FH Kit)
- 6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)
- 7:00pm Acting Class Performance (FLC)
- 8:00pm Dartball (away)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 9:30am Bible Study (103-4)
- 2:00pm Private Event (101)
- 3:00pm Men's Chorale (Sanc)
- 5:30pm Private Event (Sanc)
- 7:00pm Acting Class Performance (FLC)
- 7:30pm Private Event (Sanc)
- 8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 9:00am Cookies & Goodies Sale (103-4)
- 9:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (102)
- 9:00am Annual Quilt Sale (Link)
- 4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
- 6:00pm Otterbein Choir Concert (Sanc)
- 7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
- 9:00am Annual Quilt Sale (Link)
- 9:30am Sunday School Hour
- 10:45am Children's Church (103-4)
- 11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
- 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
- 5:00pm **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
- DINNER THEATER (FLC, Kit)**

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