

NEWS NOTES

December 13-14, 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: Keith and Jane
Stenerson

ND: Lynda Berry

Ushers

4:00pm: Michael Gibboney, Steve
Henry

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

11:00am: Don Carducci, Dennis Imbrock,
Larry Peterson, Larry Sutton

Readers

4:00pm: Karen Colwell

8:15am: Rita Orahood

11:00am: Lisa Stallard

Contemporary: Kate Shrum, Emma
Grossman

Altar Guild

Dave and Karen Grossman

Linda Wagner, Hunter Thompson

Contemporary: Rachel Katterhenrich

Acolytes

8:15am: Cordelia Wanner, Truman
Allman

11:00am: Truman Allman, Finley Lovell

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: Holly Starr

8:15am: Tim and Christina Allman

11:00am: Dave Grossman, Dwight
Henricksen

Contemporary: Gini Rogers, Jennifer
Shade, Kate Shrum

Lessons Today: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In memory of my parents on their anniversary of 73 years. Given by Jim Braskett.

LECTERN FLOWERS: In memory of Paul on our 55th anniversary. Given by Andrea Offenburger.

BULLETINS: In honor of my daughter, Sarah Schmitz, and family. Given by Armand Arabian.

✧ PERSONAL NEWS ✧

NOTES OF THANKS:

“Thanks to Fred and Donna Rieser who keep Jordan's Crossing going feeding the homeless. Thank you to the lovely lady with a warm smile, who brightened my day Sunday when they brought me my goodie bag from St. Johns.” ~ Pat Marie.

“Just a note to thank St. John's Church and the committee for the heartwarming Service of Comfort and Remembrance on Sunday, November 30th, 2025. The service recognized both of my sisters, Rita Pompey and Jean Ferguson. My family that was able to attend, as well as Martha and I, left with a grateful heart. Thank you for giving so much love! Love, Tom and Martha Spray.”

“THANK YOU, ST. JOHN'S FAMILY! We were filled with thanks and joy for the love that you shared with us in the wonderful gifts the you presented to us for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for the Thanksgiving box filled with everything for a Thanksgiving dinner, and a card to purchase a turkey. Also, thank you for the poinsettia, bag of candy and "necessities," and gift cards for Christmas. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness in remembering us and sharing with us this year. What a blessing to be members of the St. John's family. Thanks for all that you do in serving Jesus Christ and His Church. God's blessings in 2026! Love, Pastor Tom and Jeanne.”

✧ TODAY'S NEWS ✧

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. Make sure to drop off your **wrapped gift with the angel attached** to the church office or in the North Entrance bin labeled Angel Tree **by today, Sunday, December 14th**. If you have any questions please contact Megan Grossman, 614-905-2629.

QUILTERS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUILT SALE TODAY: Don't forget to visit the Quilt Sale in the Link on Sunday after church. We hope the quilts help warm your body and soul. You make our ministry possible. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DINNER THEATER: Join us **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 if you would like to help.

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 21.

Monday, December 15

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 16—Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

How do you think people test God's patience?

Wednesday, December 17—Reading: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

If you were sinking in quicksand, what would you do?

How could a shepherd help you if you were a sheep caught in quicksand?

Thursday, December 18—Reading: Romans 1:1-7

What does it mean to learn that we have received grace?

Friday, December 19—Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

How would you feel if you were Mary (for the ladies) or Joseph (for the gentlemen) in this passage?

Saturday, December 20

Please take a moment to pray for those with family conflict this Advent Season. Lord Jesus, please be with those whose families are struggling this holiday season. Please bring peace as only you can. Please guide us in our conversations so that we can bring Your light to every situation. 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.**

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!

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.

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.

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.

PEACE PUPPETS: After Jesus was born what happened next? The story wasn't over for Mary and Joseph. Come to Sunday School Opening at **9:30am on December 28th** in room 009 downstairs to see the next chapter. The PEACE Puppet Team can't wait to see you!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Eve Worship - Wednesday, December 24th

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

Christmas Day Worship - Thursday, December 25th

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

PRAYERS AND PINS—2026: 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 6:00pm on Fridays from January 9th 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!

BIKE PROJECT: Thank you so much for supporting the Bike Project this year!! With your generous help, we raised enough funds to give 26 bikes and helmets to Buckeye Ranch for children in need this Christmas season. Thank you to all those families who volunteered to help assemble these bikes with special thanks to Eddie and Joe from Columbus Police bike unit for QC of all the bikes. Thanks also go out to Butch Myers and Joe Lovell for helping us to deliver the bikes to Buckeye Ranch. Thank you again for the continued support of the Bike Project for so many years and for helping to give kids something fun to ride at Christmas!

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

PROMISE KEEPERS will not meet on December 25, 2025, or January 1, 2026.

TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS will return on January 12, 2026. Please call Diane Sexton at 678-572-0308 if you are interested in joining us next year. Merry Christmas!

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

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.

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!

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.

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 meet **this Wednesday, December 17th** via Zoom, and then take a break until January.

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 overnighter 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.

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.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DINNER THEATER IS TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th at 5pm. We will have our final practice today, December 14th during the Sunday School Hour.

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

ATTENDANCE **December 7** - **312**

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 Rm, 311.

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

☞ CALENDAR ☞

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
 6:00pm Call Team (204)
 6:00pm Sarah Circle (103-4)
 6:30pm Life to Life Discipleship Trng.
 (304)
 6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
 9:30am Quilters (103-4)
 5:50pm Friends of the Library (204)
 6:00pm Girl Scouts #6679 (FLC)
 7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (103-4)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:30pm Small Group (102)
 6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
 7:00pm AA Design for Living (FH)
 7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
 9:00am Eagle Mailing Team (204)
 3:00pm Bulletin Team (Lib)
 6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)
 8:00pm Dartball (FLC)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

11:30am OWLS (FLC, Kit)
 2:00pm Private Event (101)
 3:00pm Men's Chorale (Sanc)
 8:30pm AA (FH)

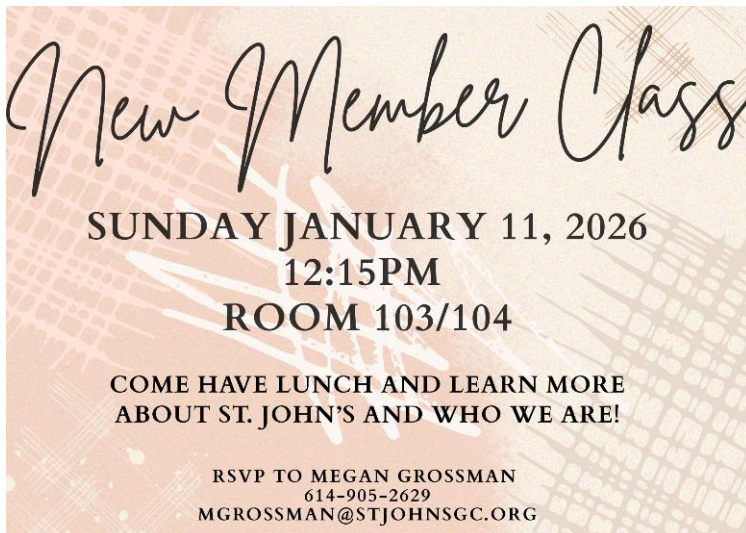
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

1:00pm Private Event (FH)
 2:00pm Private Event (FLC, 103-4)
 2:00pm HOL(L)YSTOCK
 4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:30am HOL(L)YSTOCK Pick Up
 8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 9:30am Sunday School Hour
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
 5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

**The Office will be closed
 from December 24-26, 2025
 and January 1, 2026**



New Member Class

SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2026
12:15PM
ROOM 103/104

COME HAVE LUNCH AND LEARN MORE
 ABOUT ST. JOHN'S AND WHO WE ARE!

RSVP TO MEGAN GROSSMAN
 614-905-2629
 MGROSSMAN@STJOHNSGC.ORG

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