

NEWS NOTES

December 20-21, 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: *Kyle and Lisa Mawhorr*
ND: *Linda Diehl*

Ushers

4:00pm: *Michael Gibboney, Steve Henry*
8:15am: *Steve Marcum, David Sweeley, Hunter Thompson*
11:00am: *Don Carducci, Bill Diehl, Dennis Imbrock, Tom Lang*

Readers

4:00pm: *Lisa Dubos*
8:15am: *Teresa Orahood*
11:00am: *Christine Hank*
Contemporary: *Beth Katterhenrich, Hope Katterhenrich*

Altar Guild

Linda Vozel, Dee Harlor
Paul and Pam Wittenberg
Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich*

Acolytes

8:15am: *Esme Wanner, Nick Althoff*
11:00am: *Eva Counts*

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: *David Sweeley*
8:15am: *Karen Bentley, Teresa Orahood*

11:00am: *Wayne and Carla Beavers, Caroline Koethke*
Contemporary: *Beth Katterhenrich, Rachel Katterhenrich, Jackie Rutan*

Lessons Today: Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

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

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS: In celebration of the birth of our Lord and in memory of Richard's birthday. Given by Vi Davis.

BULLETINS: In thanks to you God for all of our blessings. Given by Carol Rich.

BULLETINS: Given by Jim and Sheryl Fraley.

PERSONAL NEWS

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of **Patricia "Pat" Marie**, who passed away on December 13, 2025; and the friends and family of **Averil Mackenzie**, who passed away on December 17, 2025. All who grieve are in our hearts and prayers.

NOTES OF THANKS:

CHILI COOK-OFF AND DESSERT AUCTION: Thank you, thank you, thank you! I was overwhelmed with the wonderful response to the Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction. We had 8 chili entries, many desserts, and raised almost \$1,600.00 for Alaska and Mexico Missions. It was an incredible event with great fellowship, food, and fun! Congratulations to our winners! In 3rd place, Dwight Henricksen; in 2nd place, Alec Thomas; and in 1st place, Cindy Henricksen!

Even though we are unable to go to Mexico or Alaska at this time, the Missions Board reconvened earlier this year and decided to send a \$5000.00 love offering from our accounts to both *Genesis of Mexico* and *Alaska Mission for Christ* each year we are unable to send a team.

Please pray for the Mission, with God's will, it shall continue, and we will again be able to love the sweet children of Alaska and Mexico into His kingdom. Miracles and blessings abound! ~ Diana Imbrock.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! We had a wonderful and successful Cookie Sale! Thank you to all the bakers and buyers of St. John's along with the community who made this possible for 2025! We had so many cookies and other items that were beautiful and tasted so good! We were able to raise \$1188.50 for the Kitchen Fund! A special "Thank You" to all those who helped with the cookie sale! We would also like to thank those who gave a monetary donation toward our sale. Together we had a wonderful time and thank you!

TODAY'S NEWS

ANNOUNCING NEW BIBLE STUDY: You asked and we have delivered! A new Bible study will be launched on **Thursday, February 5th, 2026**, as we study the Parables of Jesus. Once again, we will meet at 3pm and 6pm in order to accommodate as many as who would like to attend. We will meet at 3pm in 103-4, but due to scheduling conflicts, the 6pm group will meet in 204 across from the Chapel.

In order that we may have enough material for everyone, I would encourage you to sign up. RSVP on the salmon sheet in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate, or call or email the church and let the office know you will be attending. Once again, I look forward to delving deep into the Word of God with you and sharing our stories of faith together. ~ Pastor Patti.

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.

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 or text at 614-284-6692 or email l.stallard15@gmail.com.

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 28.

Monday, December 22

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 23—Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

What are the three most common emotions that you feel when you go to God in prayer?

What kindness has the Lord shown you recently?

Wednesday, December 24—Reading: Psalm 148

Did you notice that this psalm shows praise to God that is from the top-down?

Look at it again and see if you can pick out the direction.

How do you praise God each day?

Thursday, December 25—Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

Why did we need someone with our same flesh and blood to die in our place?

Friday, December 26—Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Based on Herod's response to the birth of the Messiah and King of the Jews, what kind of person do you think Herod was?

What sort of emotions do you think Joseph and Mary felt when they were told to relocate?

Saturday, December 27

Please take a moment to pray for our services tomorrow and for those who do not know Jesus.

Merciful Lord, please be with those who do know you this Christmas. Let them be drawn to you. Help us to be welcoming and loving as they seek you. Help us to reflect you in all that we say and do. Lord, let every person who comes to our church this Christmas leave knowing that You love them and that You came and died for them. Please guide our pastors, our vicar, and all those involved in services that we may magnify Your Name.

In Jesus' Name, ***Amen.***

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: Based on the information we gathered at the Congregational Workshop, the Call Team completed our Congregational Profile, and it was approved by Church Council at their meeting on November 17th. This document summarizes who we are as a church, our mission and ministry, and the qualities we are seeking in our next Senior Pastor. The Call Team also created a video. While our adults were having our Congregational Workshop, our kids were having one of their own. The video highlights the work of our children. We think you will really like it! We sent both the Congregational Profile and the video to the NALC Call Process coordinator, and both have been posted on the NALC website.

To see both the Congregational Profile and the video, please go to thenalc.org/call. From there scroll down to “Pastoral Vacancies”. Then scroll down in that big box until you see St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio. Click on our box, and the links to both the profile and the video are there.

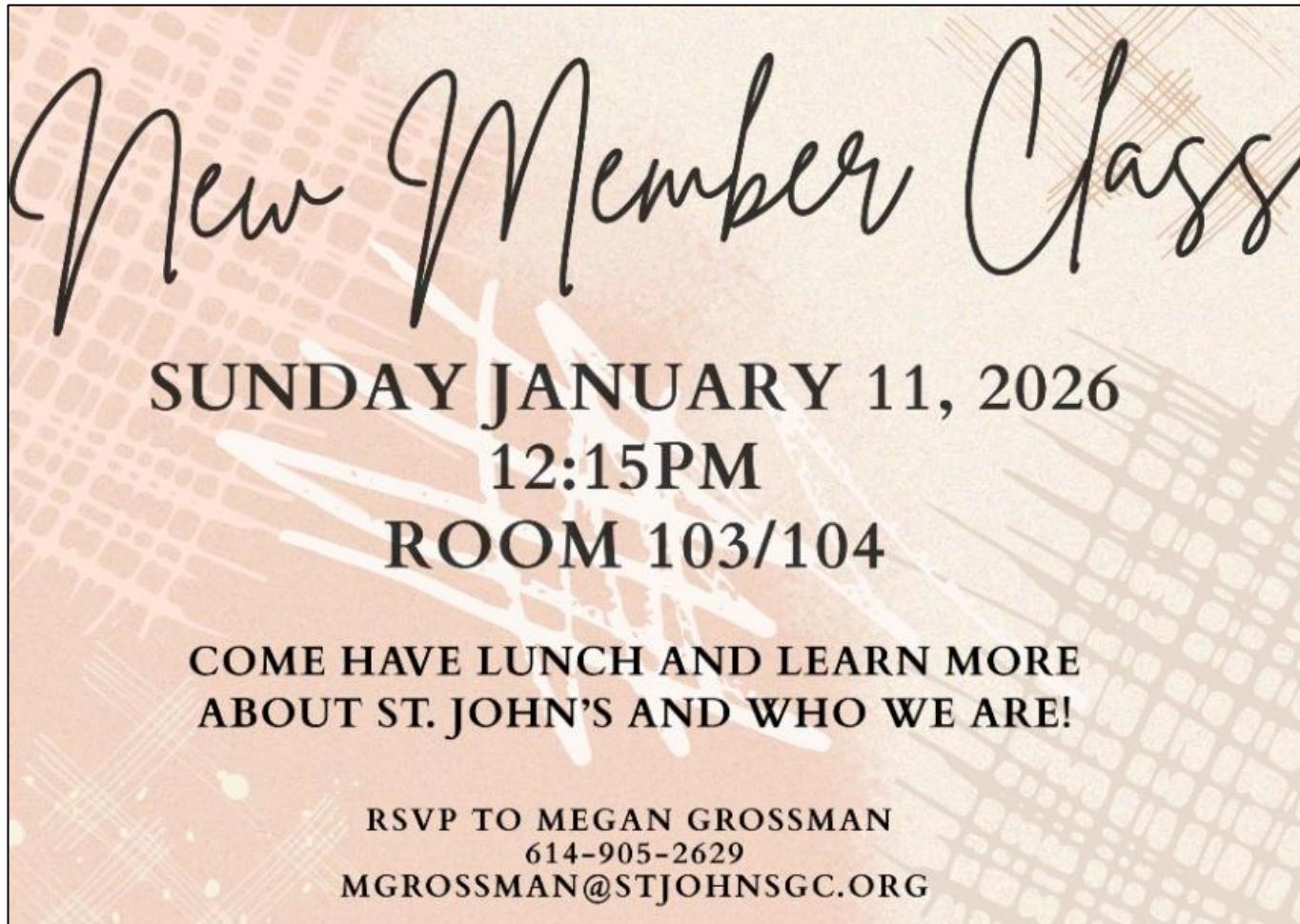
Please continue to keep the Call Team and our future pastor in your prayers as we move forward with faith and patience, trusting in God’s timing and guidance.

PRAYER FOR THE CALL PROCESS: Gracious and Loving God, we thank You for guiding our Call Team with wisdom and unity as they seek the pastor You have chosen for St. John’s. Bless their continued work and prepare the heart of the one You are calling to serve among us. Help our congregation remain steadfast in prayer, open to Your Spirit, and ready to welcome the new shepherd You will provide. In Jesus’ name we pray, ***Amen.***

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!

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.



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

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 MEXICO AND ALASKA MISSIONS!

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.

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.

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.

¤ 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 next on Monday, January 5th.

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

ATTENDANCE December 14 - 158

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.



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.

CALENDAR

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
6:00pm Call Team (204)
6:00pm Small Group (102)
6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (FLC)
6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (103-4)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
AT 4:00, 6:00, AND 8:00PM
7:00pm Design for Living AA (FH)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP AT 10:00AM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

OFFICE CLOSED
8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

12:00pm Private Event (103-4)
4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School Hour
9:30am Youth Sunday School Opening (FH)
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

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