

NEWS NOTES

December 27-28, 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 and 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: *Bill and Linda Diehl*

Ushers

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

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

11:00am: *David Clark, Bill Diehl, Dennis Imbrock, Tom Lang*

Readers

4:00pm: *Lisa Dubos*

8:15am: *Volunteer needed*

11:00am: *Sheryl Fraley*

Contemporary: Karrie Clark, Stephen Katterhenrich

Altar Guild

Dellno and Betty Lewis

Contemporary: Theresa Wahl

Acolytes

8:15am: *Corban Allman, Addy Gottshall*

11:00am: *Riley Millet, Wes Millet*

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: *Michael Gibboney*

8:15am: *Betty Lewis, Linda Wagner*

11:00am: *Christine Hank, Bonnie Swanson*

Contemporary: Karrie Clark, Brad and Theresa Wahl

Lessons Today: Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In celebration of Robert and Bonnie Swanson's 18th wedding anniversary. Given by Bonnie Swanson.

PULPIT FLOWERS: in celebration of Sarah Wittenberg's 26th birthday. Given by the Wittenberg family.

LECTERN FLOWERS: In memory of Pat Marie. From Bill, Chris, Layla, and Levi.

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

BULLETINS: In honor of all my church family. Given by Armand Arabian.

BULLETINS: Given by Rhonda Maynard.

PERSONAL NEWS

NOTES OF THANKS: Dear Family of Faith,

Thank you for the love you have showered on Jeff and me during this Christmas Season. All the delicious treats, the gifts and cards have blessed us greatly. We are blessed to be able to serve this congregation and give thanks to God for you in our prayers. With much love and appreciation, *Pastors Patti and Jeff Morlock*

TODAY'S NEWS

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!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Last chance to pick up from the Sanctuary.
Boxes will not be mailed. They are available for pick up only. Any envelope boxes remaining by Monday morning will be placed in the office and may be picked up during regular business hours, Monday – Friday from 8am-4pm.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS and NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION: A Membership Class

New Member Class

will be held at 12:15pm on Sunday, January 11. We'll start with lunch together in room 103-4.

All visitors to our congregation, our newest members, our long time regulars, and all potential members are invited to come! The classes will cover Christian mission at St. John's, and we'll be able to answer any questions you have about our congregation and our Lutheran Christian heritage. We will formally receive new members into our congregation during the 11am traditional worship service on Sunday, January 18. Show us your interest on this week's salmon sheet so we can appropriately prepare. We hope you can come!

THE RETURN OF THE EPIPHANY STAR

Happy New Year! As you read this, the season of Christmas has ended, and the season of Epiphany will have begun.

An Epiphany is a revelation, an ah-ha, an awakening to something we were unable or blind to see before, especially in matters of the Divine. In our everyday world, we use epiphany to refer to a time when everything seems to come together. As persons centered in Christ, Epiphany is that day we celebrate when it was revealed that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Remember those three magi who come bearing gifts, following a star of illumination to worship the newborn King? They are an interesting lot, aren't they? They are the first people in Matthew's Gospel to come and worship Jesus. This is interesting, as most likely these wise guys, these star gazers, were from another religious persuasion altogether. Yet they came to worship him.

They also came to bring him gifts. Gifts, which at first glance don't seem to make much sense for this humble family, but when you consider the fact that they have to flee for their very lives, gifts which in the end, may very well allow them to live and survive on the run for quite some time. And so, the Kingdom of this new-born, which is threatened to be destroyed by Herod, is given a solid beginning by these generous men, and lives on.

I have observed in this family of faith, many generous wise people who have had their own ah-ha moments, find ways to give of their own time and resources. And the Kingdom of God lives on. I have watched over these last several years people's gifts unfold in a myriad of ways even they find hard to believe, as they are stretched beyond their comfort zones to try new ways to proclaim the Good News of God's gracious Word. And the kingdom of God lives on.

Once again, this year we will be distributing Epiphany stars, each with a word for you to ponder through this new year, letting the Light of Christ move in and through you in new and wondrous ways. They will be available Jan. 3-4 in a basket at the North entrance and on the table at Contemporary worship.

I rejoice with and for you. YOU are such a blessing. Continue in the year 2026 to challenge yourselves to outdo one another in Kingdom Living. For His Glory!

Pastor Patti

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.

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***.

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.

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, January 4th.

Monday, December 29: 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 30—Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

This passage says that He will turn our mourning into gladness. What makes you sad now (makes you mourn) that you pray God will one day turn into gladness?

Wednesday, December 31—Reading: Psalm 147: 12-20

What actions is God described as doing in this passage?

Have you ever stopped to think about His power and glory in this way?

Thursday, January 1—Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

When you "count your blessings" what things that God has done go at the top of the list?

How does knowing you are adopted change your view of yourself in relation to God?

Friday, January 2—Reading: John 1:1-18

Why does this Gospel start with "In the beginning", rather than, "At Jesus' birth"?

Saturday, January 3

Please take a moment to pray for our services tomorrow and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Lord, you are the God of all comfort. Please be with those who mourn. Strengthen them and keep them in your loving arms. Give them the strength to get through the day, one moment at a time. Guide us in supporting them. Please also guide our pastors, our vicar, and all those involved in services that we may magnify Your Name. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARD ORDERS are placed on the first Tuesday of every month. You can use these cards personally and they also make great gifts. Talk to Pam Wittenberg on how you can order physical cards and/or order e-gift cards and how to re-load your cards online. Raise Right gives a percentage for each card ordered back to St. John's. Monies raised help to offset the costs of the children and youth programming that is not covered by the church budget. *Thanks for your support!*

OWLS EVENT—JANUARY 16, 2026: Know anyone that could us a helping hand? Maybe you? Well, there's good news! There's a new guy in town ready to help you out!! Jackson Township Fire Department has just one for you! Adam Gatten is just the guy for you! He is a community paramedic! Adam has been with the fire department for 30 years and has been working in this position for the past two years. He never thought he would enjoy changing people's smoke detectors and light bulbs. But he says the best part of his day is when he gets to put a smile on someone's face by helping solve problems when they don't know who else to turn to. With the goal to keep people in their homes and out of the hospital, Gatten is always out in his van helping community members with everything from installing bathroom grab bars and changing smoking detectors to organizing medications and passing out toiletries and food. And if he can't help you he has a network of community members, leaders and organizations he regularly connects with to help him get the best resources for anyone who calls in. Hope you join us to hear more!

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: 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!

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 next meet 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.

¤ STEWARDSHIP ¤

ATTENDANCE **December 21** - **268**

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

How to give to St. John's:

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- + 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.



CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Youth Sunday School
Opening (FH)
9:30am Sunday School Hour
10:45am Children's Church (103-4)
11:00am Contemporary Worship
(FLC)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)
6:00pm Call Team (204)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)
12:00pm Private Party Blood Drive
(FLC)
1:00pm CHRISTMAS BREAK
BULLETIN BOARD BUILDING
(304)
6:00pm Internship Team (Lib)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

1:30pm Small Group (102)
7:00pm Design for Living AA (FH)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

OFFICE CLOSED
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)
7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

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)

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.

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