

# NEWS NOTES

January 3-4, 2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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*

### **Acolytes**

8:15am: *Ben Previts*

11:00am: *Eva Counts*

### **Readers**

4:00pm: *Ann Jones*

8:15am: *Betty Lewis*

11:00am: *Karrie Clark*

Contemporary: *Hope Katterhenrich, Jackie Rutan*

### **Altar Guild**

*Don and Diane Carducci*

*Donna Linder*

Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich*

### **Ushers**

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

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

11:00am: *Bill Diehl, Dennis Imbrock, Tom Lang, Larry Sutton*

### **Communion Assistants**

4:00pm: *Ann Jones*

8:15am: *Joel Baughman, Teresa Orahood*

11:00am: *David and Lisa Stallard, Dan Yeater*

Contemporary: *Rachel Katterhenrich, Jackie Rutan, Kate Shrum*

**Lessons Today: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.**

## **BULLETIN DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

Given by Ike and Shelah Stage.

## **✧ 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 ✧**



### **NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS TODAY –**

A Membership Class will be held at **12:15pm today, 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. We hope you can come!

**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.

## **JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 12:00pm in the FLC

**EAGLE DEADLINE** is next **Saturday**. Please submit your article by noon on **January 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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*

**LIFE-TO-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP KICKOFF:** Do you ever just feel stuck in rut when it comes to following Jesus? Maybe you know He's calling you to make a change, but when you try, you just end up feeling stuck. Would some accountability help? Would you love to learn how to have accountability conversations? Would learning how to Biblically handle boundaries, relationships, your health, your finances, and most importantly, your walk with Christ help? If so, come check out our Life-to-Life Discipleship Journey Kickoff. This powerful study will start in January and run through late Spring.

Interested, but you'd like more information? Please come to our kickoff event on **January 24 at 1pm** in the Family Life Center! After the kickoff event, regular meetings will be held throughout the week at various times and locations, which are listed below.

Sundays – 1pm with Stephen and Rachel Katterhenrich in Room 103-4

Mondays – 6-7:30pm with Dan and Jen Czaplicki (off site)

Tuesdays – 7-8:30pm with Susan Previts (off-site)

Thursdays – 9:30-11am with Pastor Don Allman in Room 103-4

Fridays – 10-11:30am with David Shrum and Vicar Billie Fisch in the FLC

**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 and grateful for this ministry.

**PROPERTY TEAM MEMBERS** meet the first Monday of the month at 10am. If you have questions or concerns, please share them with a member of the team or put a note in the Property Team mailbox by the church office.

**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!*

**WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will hold its next meetings on **Saturday, January 10th at 9am and on Tuesday, January 27th 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.

**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 11th.

**Monday, January 5**

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, January 6—Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

What makes your heart swell with joy?

How does that help you to understand this passage?

**Wednesday, January 7—Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

What three qualities will the King bring to His people?

**Thursday, January 8—Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

Who most encourages you to read and believe the Gospel?

Who can you encourage to do the same?

**Friday, January 9—Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

How did the Magi respond to Jesus when they saw him?

What similarities and differences do you notice between this and typical Christian worship?

**Saturday, January 10—Please take a moment to pray for the new year.**

Lord, please guide us in this new year. Guide our paths for your namesake. Help us to know you and love you more this year. Help us to serve you and love you wherever this year may lead. Please continue to guide our pastors, our vicar, our musicians, and all those involved in services that we may magnify Your Name. In Jesus' Name, **Amen**.

If you have time, please also read: Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 42: 1-9.

**TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS:** Please join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at 6pm in the Family Life Center (FLC) for 30 minutes of fun, fellowship, and fitness. Everyone is welcome, however the class is geared more towards those who want to strengthen their cores and work on their balance. There are chairs available to help with any needed stability. Several of the exercises are seated, but there are some standing balance challenges too. The last 5 or so minutes of each session is a basic work out with light hand weights for anyone who wants to stay and participate. Just bring two 1-3 lb. weights or even a couple of 16.9 oz. plastic water bottles will work. This is a drop in class so no registration is needed. Just come when you can! Please call Diane Sexton with any questions at 678-572-0308. The next meetings will be on **January 12 and January 26.**

**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!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE KITCHEN TEAM:** In our newly remodeled kitchen, the dishes are no longer placed on the counters or the Link. Instead, dishes to pick up are placed in a cabinet along the FLC marked "DISHES/TRAYS FOR EVENTS." ***This cabinet is full.*** We have upcoming events that will require this space. For those who brought food for OWLS, funeral luncheons, or other recent events, **please pick up your dish(es) ASAP.** Please contact Wilma Phillips at 614-623-2770 if you have questions.

**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](mailto:l.stallard15@gmail.com).

**LAY READERS** are needed for the 8:15am and 11:00am 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 at 614-270-3291 if you have any questions.

**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, and 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.

**BULLETIN DEDICATIONS:** Consider submitting a Bulletin Dedication in honor or in memory of loved ones, and to celebrate an event, milestone, birthday, or anniversary. Bulletin Dedications are only \$20.00. Reserve your preferred weekend date on the Bulletins Sign Up sheet on the Parish Entrance bulletin board. Please direct questions to Barb Armentrout at 614-875-2985.

**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), 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 now 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. THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO ALL!

*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.*

**USED EYEGLASSES** are being collected for donation to Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers located throughout the world. The used glasses are repaired and distributed to those in need in developing countries. You can donate your used eyeglasses in the drop boxes in the second-floor hallway just outside of the Library. Please remove them from their sleeves, cases, or boxes prior to donation.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@stjohnsgc.org).

## ❧ YOUTH NEWS ❧

**Welcome back ADVENTURE CLUB and FAITH TREK!!** We will start meeting again this Thursday, January 8th from 5:45-7:15pm. The greeters table will open at 5:30pm and the suggested meal donation is \$3. Just a friendly reminder that Adventure Club and Faith Trek do **NOT** meet if Southwestern City Schools are cancelled for inclement weather. Children's choir will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup> as well at 5pm in the Chapel! Can't wait to see everyone on Thursday!

**EXPLORERS and ENERGIZERS** for grades 7—8 and 9—12 will meet from 7-8:30pm. Come join us as we kick off the new year! Friendly reminder, Explorers and Energizers do **NOT** meet if Southwestern City Schools are cancelled for inclement weather. Please connect with Gini Rogers at [grogers@stjohnsgc.org](mailto:grogers@stjohnsgc.org) if you have questions.

**IQA for High Schoolers.** Join Gini starting Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm via zoom for IQA. We would love to see you there!

**Hol(I)ystock** (our 7th-12th grade Christmas overnigher) was a success!!! Youth learned about the promises of God from the Old and New Testament and the promise of Jesus being sent to save us. They also got to fellowship with food, a scavenger hunt, snacks, the Columbus Zoolights, and more food! Gini, Christina and Donna want to give a special thank you to Amy Wanner and her Sunday School class for providing breakfast for us Sunday morning. This was such a huge blessing to the adults and the kids!!! We appreciate all our adults who continue to Faith Web with our youth—you are a blessing.




## ☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞


<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>694</b>
	<b>December 25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53</b>
	<b>December 28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>238</b>


**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](http://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, Rm 102 / Parenting Topics, Amy Wanner, Rm 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 Rm, 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, 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)

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:30am BSF Leaders  
 10:00am Property Team (204)  
 12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)  
 6:00pm Call Team (204)  
 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle (103-4)  
 6:30pm PEACE Puppets (FLC)  
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**

### **RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE**

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Sanc)  
 9:30am Quilters (103-4)  
 11:00am OWLS Planning Meeting (102)  
 6:00pm Girl Scouts #6679 (FH)  
 7:00pm SW Historical Society (103-4)  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (FLC)

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

9:30am BSF  
 1:30pm Small Group (102)  
 6:00pm IQA Bible Study (103-4)  
 6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)  
 7:00pm Design for Living AA (FH)  
 7:00pm Explorers & Energizers  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir (FLC)

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)  
 2:00pm Small Group (Café)  
 3:00pm Bulletin Team (Lib)  
 5:00pm Children's Choir (Chapel)  
 5:45pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek  
 6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)  
 8:00pm Dartball (away)

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**

10:00am Ohio Mission Region Mtg. (102)  
 2:00pm Private Event (101)  
 3:00pm Men's Chorale (Sanc)  
 8:30pm AA (FH)

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

### **FEBRUARY EAGLE ARTICLES DUE**

9:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (103-4)  
 10:00am Girl Scouts #6300 (FH)  
 4:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 7:00pm AA Serenity Seekers (FH)

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 9:30am Sunday School Hour  
 10:45am Children's Church (103-4)  
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (FLC)  
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
**12:15pm NEW MEMBER CLASS (103-4)**  
 5:00pm Adult Basketball (FLC)

## **JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 18 at 12:00pm in the FLC

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