

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297
614-875-2314

DATED MATERIALS

FEBRUARY 2026

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The Eagle

FEBRUARY 2026

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

www.stjohnsgc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY						
<p>1 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Adult Basketball 5pm</p>	<p>2 BSF Leaders 9:30am Property Team 10am Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm IQA Bible Study 7:30pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>3 RAISE RIGHT ORDERS DUE Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am OWLS Planning 11am Boy Scouts #392 7pm SW Historical Soc. 7pm</p>	<p>4 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Private Event 3pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>5 Promise Keepers 8am Small Group 2pm Bulletin Team 3pm Parables of Jesus 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Parables of Jesus 6pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (away)</p>	<p>6 Bible Study 9:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Prayers and Pins 6pm (off-site) AA 8:30pm</p>	<p>7 SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seek. AA 7pm</p>
<p>8 SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Children's Church 10:45am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Life to Life Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm</p>	<p>9 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Exercise Class 6pm Life to Life Bible Study 6pm (off-site) Small Group 6pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm Finance Team 7pm IQA Bible Study 7:30pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>10 EAGLE DEADLINE Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am Executive Team 5:30pm Fat Quarter Quilt Guild 5:45pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm Life to Life Bible Study 7pm (off-site)</p>	<p>11 BSF 9:30am Small Group 1pm Private Event 3pm Women's Chorale 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>12 Promise Keepers 8am Life to Life Bible Study 9:30am Bulletin Team 3pm Parables of Jesus 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Parables of Jesus 6pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)</p>	<p>13 Bible Study 9:30am Life to Life Bible Study 10am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Prayers and Pins 6pm (off-site) AA 8:30pm</p>	<p>14 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Visitation 10am Memorial Service 11am Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm</p>
<p>15 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am LEGO Club 12:30pm Life to Life Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm</p>	<p>16 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Life to Life Bible Study 6pm (off-site) Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm IQA Bible Study 7:30pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>17 Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am Shrove Tuesday with Chris Cakes 5:30pm Blue Ribbon 4-H 6:30pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm Life to Life Bible Study 7pm (off-site)</p>	<p>18 ASH WEDNESDAY BSF 9:30am Ash Wednesday Worship 12pm Small Group 1pm Private Event 3pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm AA Design for Living 7pm</p>	<p>19 Promise Keepers 8am Eagle Mailing Team 9am Life to Life Bible Study 9:30am Small Group 2pm Bulletin Team 3pm Parables of Jesus 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Parables of Jesus 6pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)</p>	<p>20 Bible Study 9:30am Life to Life Bible Study 10am OWLS 11:30am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Prayers and Pins 6pm (off-site) AA 8:30pm</p>	<p>21 Council Retreat 8:30am Private Event 12pm Columbus Miniatre Society 12:30pm Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm</p>
<p>22 Traditional Worship 8:15am Sunday School Hour 9:30am Children's Church 10:45am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 11am Life to Life Bible Study 1pm Adult Basketball 5pm Saddles n Such 4-H 6pm</p>	<p>23 BSF Leaders 9:30am Lunchtime AA 12pm Call Team 6pm Exercise Class 6pm Life to Life Bible Study 6pm (off-site) Small Group 6pm L2L Leaders Monthly Recap 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Daily Reprieve AA 7pm IQA 7:30pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>24 Men's Prayer Group 7am Quilters 9:30am Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm Girl Scouts #6679 6pm Internship Team 6pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Boy Scouts #392 7pm Life to Life Bible Study 7pm (off-site)</p>	<p>25 BSF 9:30am Lenten Noon Service 12pm Small Group 1pm Private Event 3pm Soup Supper 5:30pm Women's Chorale 5:30pm Holden Evening Prayer 6:30pm AA Design for Living 7pm Explorers & Energizers 7pm Chancel Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>26 Promise Keepers 8am Life to Life Bible Study 9:30am Bulletin Team 3pm Parables of Jesus 3pm Children's Choir 5pm Adventure Club & Faith Trek 5:45pm Parables of Jesus 6pm Celebration Ringers 6:15pm Dartball 8pm (home)</p>	<p>27 Bible Study 9:30am Life to Life Bible Study 10am Private Event 2pm Men's Chorale 3pm Prayers and Pins 6pm (off-site) AA 8:30pm</p>	<p>28 Traditional Worship 4pm Serenity Seekers AA 7pm</p> 

HOLY BAPTISM

Congratulations to **Katelyn Stenerson**
on the baptism of her son, **Greyson Musick**,
on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Congratulations to **Nolan and Bayleigh Winger**
on the baptism of their daughters, **Ryleigh and Magnolia Winger**,
on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Congratulations to **Mark and Elizabeth Brandt**
on the baptism of their daughter, **Hannah Carroll**,
and their son, **Wyatt Brandt**, on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Please keep all of them in your prayers as they begin
their baptismal journeys with the Lord.



Relationships are important to us at St. John's!

We want to surround our children and youth with lots of faith-filled relationships between all age groups so that they might know the love of Jesus and stay connected with the church. If you'd like to know how you can make a difference in a young person's life, connect with our

Interim Children and Youth Directors:

Christina Allman, Donna Westerfeld, and Gini Rogers.



ADVENTURE CLUB and FAITH TREK meet weekly on Thursdays, 5:45pm—7:15pm. The greeter's table opens at 5:30pm. Suggested donation for the evening meal is \$3. Adventure Club is for ages 4 through 4th grade. Faith Trek is for 5th and 6th grade. We would love for you to join us!

PLEASE NOTE: ANY DAY THAT SWCS DOES NOT MEET DUE TO BAD WEATHER, WE ALSO DO NOT HAVE YOUTH GROUPS THAT NIGHT.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets before Adventure Club and Faith Trek in the Chapel on Thursdays, starting at 5pm. Children staying for youth groups are escorted down to the greeter's table.

EXPLORERS and ENERGIZERS for grades 7—8 and 9—12 meet weekly on Wednesdays, 7—8:30pm. Wednesday nights are a great night to connect with others, make friends, and grow in faith.

A PARENTING GROUP meets every Sunday, 9:30-10:30am in Room 103-4, with Amy Wanner. Stop by and join the conversation. It's a great place to be encouraged and feel supported.

PARENTING RESOURCES are available in the youth office. Feel free to stop by and see what books you'd like to borrow. There are also insightful Parent Guides from AXIS.ORG that are on the wall across from the youth office. AXIS.ORG is "connecting Parents, Teens, & Jesus in a Disconnected World." This website is full of free resources on parenting youth in today's culture. Each week, AXIS.ORG researches culture to help you stay up to date on the music, movies, TV shows, and social media trends impacting your kid's world. Sign up to receive the weekly Culture Translator email for free at <https://axis.org/>

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages meets from 9:30am—10:30am.

STAY TUNED for Souper Bowl Sunday, February 9th and Blankets of Love!

Join us for LEGO Club!

The next meeting date is Sunday, February 15.

Come have lunch with us, hear a story from the LEGO Bible, and play and build with LEGO blocks! We'll meet in the FLC at 12:30pm and stay until 2pm.

Lunch is provided! If you're able to, please RSVP to help us have the right amount of food. Tell Jen Mitchell, Stephanie Potokar, or Christina Allman.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF JANUARY 12, 2026

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Ralph Johnston** by Maureen and Michael Wootton; Richard and Shelah Stage; John and Susan Morlan; Jim and Carol Rorick; Judy Bowers; Jackson Jump; Ella Kapustka; Anna Kapustka; David and Marsha Jump; Lisa Love; Morgan and Julie von Lohr; Howard and Nellie McCarley; Steve and Judy Morlan; Larry and Becky Link; Susan Koehler; Neva Warren; Raymond and Karen Bentley; Nathan and Paula Jenkins; Don Doyle Jr.; Teresa Cracas; John Kellington; Dellno and Betty Lewis; Charlotte Rausch; Richard Rush; and Edward, Wanda, and Rachel Holycross;

Given in memory of **Averil MacKenzie** by Neva Warren; Beth Katterhenrich; Richard Stage; Larry and Becky Link; and Susan Koehler

Given in memory of **Nancy Patzer** by Susan Koehler

Given in memory of **Philip Pennington** by Cindy Pennington

Given in memory of **Jane Stenerson** by Raymond and Karen Bentley

Given in memory of **Patricia Marie** by Beth Katterhenrich

Sunday School Fund

Given in memory of **Averil MacKenzie** by Larry and Susan Sutton

Youth Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Ralph Johnston** by Pam and Charlie Brown

Given in memory of **Averil MacKenzie** by Wilma Phillips; Anonymous Giver; and Elizabeth Circle

Benevolence Fund: Adopt a Family

Given in honor of **Steve Johnston** by Chapel Class

Youth Fund: Adventure Club

Given in memory of **Jane Stenerson** by Larry and Sue Sutton

Quilters Fund

Given in memory of **Patricia Marie** by Dellno and Betty Lewis

Bed Brigade Fund

Given in honor of **Bill Kline** by Cheryl Jackson

SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, over \$175 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

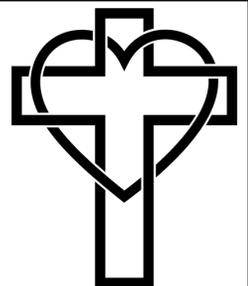


® We will be collecting monies (cash and checks) for Souper Bowl of Caring on **February 7th and 8th at all the worship services**. Your cash donations will be used to purchase and deliver food to the Grove City Food Pantry. Checks made out to "St. John's Lutheran" will be deposited and one check sent to the LSS Food Pantry. Please note in the check memo: *Souper Bowl of Caring*.

Look for students at the doors that Sunday and help end hunger in our local community!
If you want to learn more, go to www.tacklehunger.org. Thank you!

BLANKETS OF LOVE 2026

Blankets of Love is back! This year's student leader is Cordelia Wanner, a seventh grader with a caring servant's heart. During the month of February, we are asking groups or families to sponsor a Bed Brigade Blessing Bag (with the blanket and a sheet set), tie a blanket, or both! Then the Blessing Bags will be given to the Bed Brigade for their deliveries. If your group or family would like to participate, contact **Cordelia Wanner** or **Megan Grossman**. Thanks for helping make a child's winter snuggly and warm!



NOTES OF THANKS

I wanted to write this to tell all of you how incredibly thankful I am for all that you do for my children as well as for me. A lot of things would not be possible if not for your support. We are incredibly blessed. I hope that all of you have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. Again, **THANK YOU** all so much for everything. Merry Christmas! ~ Kathy Porter, Kenzlynn, Ashton, Magnolia, Deacon, and Carter.

THANK YOU for St. John's members and all who gifted with generosity! Sincerely, Judy Graessle.

Dear St. John's, **THANK YOU** for the special items and poinsettia delivered to my home December 7. Your kindness is appreciated. Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year. Fondly, Pat Walters.

THANK YOU so much for thinking of me at Christmas. Your kindness means more than you'll ever know. ~ Elaine Rapp.

THANK YOU - I want to acknowledge and thank all the people that sent cards and monetary gifts in memory of my wife, Nancy Patzer. It means so much to me. Thank you, Carl Patzer.

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!

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.



Simply the right way to fundraise

See Pam Wittenberg on how your gift cards can raise monies at no extra cost to you!
ORDERS ARE PLACED THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.



Connect your **KROGER** card with the **COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**.
Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>.
Our organization number is **EY530**.

Shop at Kroger and a percentage comes back to the youth at St. John's!

TWICE-A-MONTH MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

Please join us every 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 6pm in the Family Life Center (FLC) for 30 minutes of fun, fellowship, and fitness.

The next meetings will be on
**Monday, February 9th and
Monday, February 23rd.**



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. Thank you!

OWLS EVENT—FEBRUARY 20, 2026



Our program this month will sound familiar to some of you because we have had the pleasure of hosting our speaker a few times over the past few years. Teri Ruslander is Elder Services Coordinator for Grove City and is a part of the police department. She retired from the department a few years ago and is now an asset for our most vulnerable citizens. She will share the current financial scams making their way around the country, how to respond to these schemes and what to do if you become a victim. She is a very entertaining guest and is a true crowd pleaser. If you join us in February, you will not be disappointed. We hope you join us!

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!

**St. John's will be hosting a
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
in the Family Life Center on TUESDAY,
February 20th from 12-6 pm.**

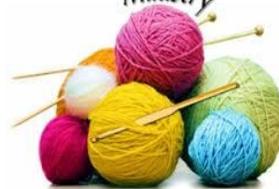
To schedule your appointment,
call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code:
StJohnsGC



WRAPPED IN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are happy to teach anyone interested how to knit or crochet. For more information, call Glenda Allman at 614-352-5955 or Diana Imbrock at 614-271-5775.

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



**Join us for the next meetings on
Saturday, February 14th at 9am
and Tuesday, February 24th at
6pm in Room 103-4.**



Women's Ministry

**Here's a spiritual
growth goal:**

Join a Circle of friends!

Joining our Circles is an easy way to make new friends and grow spiritually. Both Circles have evening meeting times and are held in Room 103-4. Contact the leaders listed for more information.

Elizabeth Circle
Contact
Amy Shaw
614-496-2890

Monday, February 2nd at 6:30pm

Sarah Circle
Contact
Diane Carducci
614-893-1872

We will resume on March 23rd.

ANNOUNCING: NEW BIBLE STUDY

You asked and we have delivered! A new Bible study will be launched on **Thursday, February 5th**, 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. Put an RSVP on the salmon sheet in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or call 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



SHROVE TUESDAY

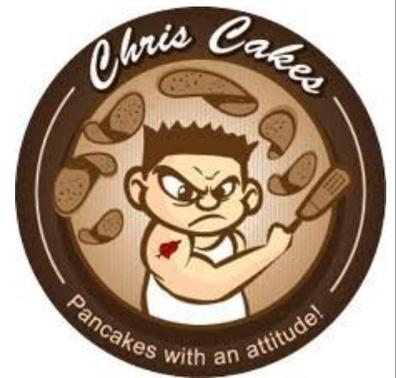
ABOUT SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is a day to cleanse the soul and celebrate before the contemplative season of Lent begins. Shrove Tuesday derives its name from the ritual of “shriving” that Christians used to do in the past. In shriving, Christians confessed their sins, received forgiveness, and were released from the guilt and pain these sins had caused them.

The addition of pancakes to this celebration has an interesting history. In olden times, Christians would not eat certain foods during Lent such as meat, fish, fats, eggs, and milk products. So as to not waste any food, families would feast on the shriving Tuesday, eating all the foods that would not last the forty days of Lent. Pancakes then became associated with Shrove Tuesday as their preparation would use up all the eggs, milk, and fats in the house.

Pancake races were added to the festivities when, in 1445, a woman lost track of time preparing her pancake dinner, heard the church bells calling her to worship, and ran from her house still carrying her frying pan! The most famous pancake race today is in England where the participants must toss their pancake at the start and finish of the 415-yard race and wear a scarf and apron.

In celebration of Shrove Tuesday, we will not have a race, but there will be a tossing of pancakes by **Chris Cakes in the Family Life Center from 5:30pm–7:30pm on Tuesday, February 17th at a special dinner sponsored by St. John’s Mexico Missions**. The pancakes will be delicious, and the fellowship will be fantastic!! *Presale tickets are \$6.00, but the price goes to \$7.00 at the door*. Get your tickets early and join us for this special event!



Quilters

The Quilters’ main emphasis is trying to add a bit of happiness for children and adults through acts of Christian concern and understanding. To meet this emphasis, we make quilts, prepare used stamps for two veterans hospitals, collect card fronts for crafters and make and fill 100 Christmas bags for children whose family use the food pantry at the Methodist Church.

The Quilters truly appreciate those who showed an interest in our ministry and bought quilts at our quilt sale. This past Christmas sale of 2025, we made \$745. The proceeds are divided among church ministries and charities. Also, we donated some of the unsold quilts to Jordan’s Crossing. Thank you again for supporting our ministry. We hope our Lutheran quilts help you keep you warm.

The Quilters are saddened by the passing of long-time quilter, **Pat Marie**. Pat enjoyed making larger quilts. Many of her quilts were started from quilt sections or pieces she found and completed. Up until the end, Pat worked on her quilts every day. She was dedicated quilter who tried to help the less fortunate and will be missed.

If you are interested in making a quilt at home for another charity, the Quilters have the material and help. Call the church to set up an appointment with a quilter.

The Quilters meet most Tuesday mornings around 9:30am until the early afternoon around 1pm. Come, visit and stay as long as you wish. All materials are provided.

In big ways and small ways, kindness always makes the world a better place. ~ *Anonymous*.

Mexico Update



Thank you so much as you continue to support the Mexico Mission through your prayers and our fund-raisers. Even though we are awaiting the Lord's call to send a summer team, we are sending funds to love on the children who are a part of the Genesis Diez family. Watch for Genesis Diez newsletters on the mission board in the Link.

Here are some things you should know about the far-reaching impact of your hearts on the children in Mexico.

Did you know that...

- ...Greg and Pattie, although unable to speak Spanish, answered God's call to move to Mexico and begin their Mexico ministry, Genesis Diez, 20+ years ago?
- ...since then, they have purchased land and have been developing camps there to provide a Christian summer camp experience for the orphans of Tijuana and surrounding areas?
- ...they are in the process of building their 4th camp, Camp Joy, at Rancho Genesis (the purchased land)?
- ...at the "ranch", they have built a central kitchen, as well as tents, shelter houses, latrines, and soccer fields for each of the camps?
- ...hundreds of children arrive every summer to escape the dangerous environment of the streets of Tijuana and experience what it's like to live "in the love of the Lord"?
- ...they built a home called Puerta Hermosa where extremely ill children (many who have been abandoned) can receive 24/7 love and care?
- ...you can learn more by talking to Diana or anyone who has gone to Rancho Genesis, or by visiting www.genesisdiez.org?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

You have given us so very much. Help us to be your hands and feet as we reach out to the children of the world, offering them Your love and peace. **Amen.**

Meditation Moment

*from St. John's Prayer Stations to your family...

Each month the bulletin and Eagle will have a meditation moment which can be used individually or with your family. Enjoy time with your Heavenly Father as you take a moment to breathe in His love, grace, peace, and goodness. If you would like prayer stations set up for your small group, Sunday School class, or event, contact Diana Imbrock.

Theme: Your Heavenly Father loves you with an everlasting love.

Meditation Verse(s): Romans 8:38-39

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Activity: Heart Hunt

Supplies: camera/phone/heart cutouts

Walk around your neighborhood and be on the lookout for heart shapes. Take a picture of each. I have found them in rocks, oil stains on my driveway, leaf prints on the sidewalk, and yes, even in bird droppings! For each one recall a time God has shown you His overwhelming love and write it on a heart. Attach the hearts to each other to make a garland to hang in your kitchen. You may want to print out your pictures, too, to add to the garland.

Self-reflection/Discussion Questions:

God's love is infinite. How has He shown you that love today?

What forces have tried to blind you to His love? What can you do to make sure they don't succeed?

In what ways can you share God's unlimited love to others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

You have showered us with Your incredible love. Help us to share it with others in all we think, say, and do. ***Amen.***



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY 2026



Feb 25- Week 1 - Walking in the Wilderness: In Isolation -

Psalm 25 1-7 and Exodus 2:11-15, 3:1-6

Description: Our tendency as sinful people is to wander away from the abundance of our Lord and into the wilderness. Yet our God, in His abundant grace, is faithful to forgive and to never leave us or forsake us. In the isolation of our wilderness, when all is stripped away, we can trust that God is still with us.

March 4 - Week 2 - Walking in the Wilderness: In Barren Places

Proverbs 14:12 and Exodus 16:1-20

Description: The Realization that the Wilderness is barren comes as we continue our journey. We hunger and thirst for God. We can trust that He will provide for our Spiritual Needs even if it is not what we want. Through the Law we see that we cannot measure up, and through the Gospel we find out that we don't need to because Christ has done all the work. In lush places and in barren places, all we need is Jesus.

March 11 - Week 3 - Walking in the Wilderness: In Want

Matthew 11: 28-30 and John 6: 1-13

Description: We realize that we are spiritually empty without our Lord. We admit that we need him and that we are powerless without Him. We have all that we need in Jesus, who is walking with us, never leaving us or forsaking us. We don't have to carry the weight of our sin anymore, as He calls us to give up our burdens for His yoke.

March 18 - Week 4 - Walking in the Wilderness: In Thirst

Psalm 63:1-4 and Psalm 42:1-5

Description: In the wilderness we trust Jesus for our every need. We surrender to Him to lead us in a closer walk with Him. We have become tired and thirsty, and since water is scarce, we rely on the Lord, who also thirsted during his crucifixion (John 19:28). Yet, in all of this, the Holy Spirit empowers us, to have self-control and to be strong in our faith.

March 25 - Week 5 - Walking in the Wilderness: In Prayer

Matthew 4:1-11

Description: Jesus will always walk with us, both in the garden and in the wilderness. We know that he too, in human form, was tempted in the desert, so He understands our temptations. He fought this extreme temptation with prayer and by quoting scripture. He invites us to do the same.



Hello Church Family!

As some of you know, my husband, Bob, and I met in December of 2020 so for our first Valentine's Day during 2021, many restaurants were still closed, and we had to be a bit creative. Living in Akron at the time, I kept seeing these advertisements for Igloo Rentals at Lock 3. The ads said they were clean and sanitized, came with chairs, a table, were heated, and were purported to have a great view of downtown Akron! This sounded like a great way to spend some time together, so we rented one.

Valentine's Day came, and it was frigid. It was so cold, in fact, that the live indoor flowers Bob had gotten me along the way, froze in his car before he ever got to my apartment! But we would not be deterred! We packed up some card games to play, called and ordered takeout from a restaurant in Akron, picked it up, and headed to our igloo for dinner. And this is where things get a bit comical.

It was now approximately 17 degrees outside, and for the entirety of the walk from the car to Lock 3, we reminded ourselves that we would be warm in just a moment. As we checked in and were shown to Igloo E, we realized things were not as they seemed. Our tent contained wooden folding chairs (think old Sunday School chairs from when you were a kid), and the heat for the "heated igloo" was coming from a small space by our feet. Our "view of the city" turned out to be the underside of a bridge, and we huddled over a small table which could have doubled as a step stool. As our leftover dinner first cooled and then iced over, we decided that we would be much warmer somewhere else, and headed to the car - blasting the heat. To this day, when we see those clear igloos, we nudge each other, laughing, and ask if the other would like to go on a date.

I tell you this story to illustrate that things are not always what they seem. Sometimes, within the church, we tend to pretend that everything is fine. We act like we don't have sins and that we don't have needs. We dress in our Sunday best, plaster a smile on our faces, and fake it, hoping that no one sees the cracks. But the things is – You're at church to worship the God Who Made the Universe, and He already knows where the chinks in the armor are, and He loves you anyway! In fact, He knows the chinks of the armor of every person on the planet and wants everyone to know Him!

There's a line from a song by the band Unspoken which says, "Aren't you tired of being tired?". Aren't we tired of pretending that everything is ok and that we don't need prayer? Aren't we tired of having to make the perfect post, say the right words, and be perceived the right way, so that others will love us? Let me say it again, God loves you just as you are!

Brennan Manning once wrote, "The church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners." It's where we come to find out that we're not alone. There's a whole community of people who need Jesus just like we do! So, let me ask once more. "So aren't you tired of being tired? Your secret's safe with me."

May God grant you peace as you reveal all of your needs, hurts, and joys to Him!

In His Service,

Vicar Billie Fisch

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY 2026: WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH: Worship at 12pm and 7pm

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES: Our Wednesday Lenten services will feature *WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS* at 12pm, and *HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER* at 6:30pm.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH	—	IN ISOLATION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH	—	IN BARREN PLACES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH	—	IN WANT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH	—	IN THIRST
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH	—	IN PRAYER



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

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Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

the family and friends of **Patricia Marie**,
who passed away on December 13, 2025;
the family and friends of **Averil Mackenzie**,
who passed away on December 17, 2025;
the family and friends of **Jane Stenerson**,
who passed away on January 10, 2026.



*All who grieve
are in our
hearts and
prayers.*



JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship:

Saturdays at 4:00pm

Sundays at 8:15am & 11:00am

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 11:00am

Join us each week during the Sunday School Hour!

We would like to welcome all children ages 2 and
up who are not already attending to join us
during the Sunday School Hour from
9:30-10:30am each Sunday.

Parents are encouraged to join one of our adult
classes. There's even one that focuses on
parenting related topics.

If you have any questions, please see Tim Allman
or a member of the youth staff.

We look forward to seeing you!!

**Church Office hours are
Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.**

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers: Dr. Scott Hirth, Council President;
Rachel Katterhenrich, Secretary; Teresa Orahoad,
Treasurer.

Members-At-Large: David Clark, Diana Imbrock,
Susan Previts, David Stallard.

**The article deadline for the MARCH 2026
Eagle is FEBRUARY 10TH.**
Email announcements & articles to
secretary@stjohnsgc.org
or leave a handwritten copy in the church office.



The Eagle

February 2026

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
3220 Columbus St., Grove City, Ohio
www.stjohnsgc.org 614-875-2314

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Disciples of Jesus,

How long do you think it would REALLY take to cross the Sinai desert? This was the question posed by a simple farm girl as she reflected on such things.

Depending on the route, the journey from Egypt to the edge of Canaan is roughly 250 to 300 miles. On paper, a healthy adult walking alone might cover that in a couple of weeks. So why would it take the Israelites 40 YEARS to make the journey?

First of all, the Israelites were not a solo hiker with trail shoes and an inspirational Spotify playlist. They were likely hundreds of thousands of people. Generations. Families. Children. Elderly people. Pregnant women. Now add to that livestock. Sheep. Goats. Cattle. Tents. Supplies. Everything moved together, and travel speed is dictated by the slowest, smallest, most tired person, not the strongest one. If you have ever tried to get ten people out the door on time, you already understand this.

Here's the thing, the forty years were not because they could not find the right road. According to Exodus and Numbers, the Israelites reached the edge of the Promised Land relatively early. They sent scouts into the land. They saw it. And then they panicked. They did not trust God. They refused to go forward. They wanted to go back to Egypt, back to slavery, because at least it was familiar.

So God did not say "oops, wrong turn." He said they were not ready. The wilderness was not a navigation failure. It was intentional. They had spent multiple generations as slaves. Their identity was shaped by fear, survival, and obedience to human masters. You do not undo that in a weekend. You do not turn slaves into a free people with a new identity, new laws, a new way of trusting God, and responsibility for a land in two days.

The forty years allowed one generation to pass away and another to rise. A generation that knew God as Provider instead of Pharaoh as authority. And let's be honest for a moment. If God's goal had been speed, this could have been over almost instantly. He split a sea. Time was not the issue. Transformation was.

And before we feel tempted to look down on the Israelites, we should pause. Because we do the same thing. We ask God to rescue us, then get frustrated when the process takes longer than we think it should. We want freedom, but not if it involves discomfort. We want the promise, but not the patience. We want the destination, but we complain about the journey. The Israelites did not spend forty years wandering because they were foolish or directionally challenged. They spent forty years becoming ready.

And if we're honest, most of us take even longer.

Join us on our Lenten journey as we discover how the Lord speaks to us in the solitude and wanderings of our own wilderness times. We will again use Holden Evening Prayer for worship, preceded by a simple soup supper and fellowship.

Looking forward in Faith.

Pastor Patti