

NEWS NOTES

May 16-17, 2026

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314 | www.stjohnsgc.org | secretary@stjohnsgc.org

Pastor Patti Morlock | (740) 405-1548 | pmorlock@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 ☞

Greeter

11:00am: Lynda Berry

Readers

4:00pm: Charlie Brown

8:15am: Pam Wittenberg

11:00am: Sheryl Fraley

Ushers

4:00pm: Steve Henry, Michael
Gibboney

8:15am: Steve Marcum, David
Sweeley

11:00am: Bill Diehl, George
Gonsowski, Tom Lang, Larry
Sutton

Acolytes

8:15am: Ben Previts, Esmé Wanner

11:00am: Lukas Althoff, Nick Althoff

Altar Guild

Dellno and Betty Lewis

Paul and Pam Wittenberg

Communion Assistants

4:00pm: Mike Gibboney

8:15am: Karen Bentley, Joel
Baughman

11:00am: Lynda Berry, Gloria Biggs,
Bonnie Swanson

Lessons Today: Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In honor of Addison's 11th birthday. Given by mom Sarah Hartley, Aunt Stephine, Mimi, and Lucy.

PULPIT FLOWERS: In celebration of Lukas's 14th birthday and our 22nd wedding anniversary. Given by parents Tim and Jill Althoff, and brothers Collin and Nickolas.

BULLETINS: In memory of Michael Holcomb who will always be loved and never forgotten. Rest in peace (May 16, 2024). Given by Shelia Holcomb.

✪ PERSONAL NEWS ✪

HOLY BAPTISM TODAY: Congratulations and blessings to **Lorlei Hardy, Lucy Rawson, Addy Samuels, and Lowen Samuels**, who will be baptized at the 11:00am traditional service on Sunday! Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their baptismal journey with the Lord.

THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S CHURCH for having a library. I just read *Getting to the Other Side of Grief – Overcoming the Loss of a Spouse*. This book was comforting. Peace be with you! ~ Shelia Holcomb.

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: We would like to invite all of St. John's congregational family to join us in celebrating **June Stimpfle's 90th birthday!** We will meet on Saturday, May 30th in rooms 103-4 from 1:30pm-3:30pm. Requesting no gifts or cards, simply want to enjoy in the fellowship. Light refreshments will be provided. ~ Linda Ballou.

✪ TODAY'S NEWS ✪

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMANDS! The following four St. John's confirmation students will publicly affirm their baptism at the 11am combined worship service on May 24th:

Lukas Althoff Addy Gottshall Addy Westerfeld Jake Westerfeld

For the past two years, these students have been engaged in a regular discipline of prayer, Bible study, classroom discussion, and service activities. We should be very proud of them (and their parents) for their work and commitment! Please keep our confirmands in your prayers that they will continue to build their lives on the Rock, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

CONFIRMATION FAITH CELEBRATION: MAY 24TH. Come share your support and encouragement with our confirmation students as they share their faith in Christ at our Faith Celebration from 9:30 to 10:30am on Sunday, May 24th. Smoothies and cake will be provided!

DIRECTORY UPDATE — Your Help Is Needed!

We are excited to share that our church directory update is well underway, and we need you to help us finish the job! **Today, May 17th** we will be set up in the overflow from **9:15 – 10:30 am** and **12:00 – 12:30 pm**. Stop by to verify your contact information and have an updated photo taken. It only takes a few minutes, and it makes a world of difference!

Having accurate, current information in our directory is more important than ever as we look ahead to welcoming a new senior pastor. A complete and up-to-date directory helps our church family stay connected and ensures our leadership has everything they need to serve you well.

Please see David Clark or Megan Grossman when you arrive — they'll be happy to assist you. If you have any questions or run into any issues, don't hesitate to reach out to David or Megan directly.

Want to access the new directory now? Simply scan the QR code in the bulletin or visit CHmeetings.com. We appreciate your participation in keeping our church community connected!



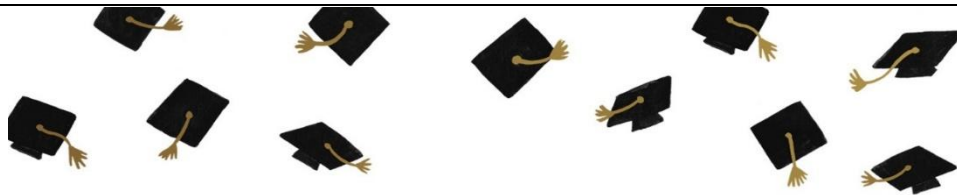
CALL TEAM UPDATE: SAVE THE DATE! We are excited to share that a prospective pastor will be visiting for services on June 27–28. More information will be shared soon, but we hope you'll plan to join us for this special opportunity. Thank you for your continued prayers for the Call Committee and for the pastor God is preparing to lead our congregation.

Prayer for the Call Process: Heavenly Father, continue to guide the Call Committee with wisdom, unity, and discernment as we seek the next Senior Pastor for St. John's. Prepare our hearts and minds for this upcoming visit, and help us to warmly welcome this pastor and their family. Bless our congregation as we walk forward in faith, trusting in Your perfect timing and provision. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ATTENTION STITCHERS! CORRECTION: Prayer shawl ministry is NOT meeting on Saturday, May 9th or Tuesday, May 26th. **Our next meeting is on June 13th.**

SECURITY TEAM MEMBER NEEDED: The schedule for Security Team Members runs on a two-week rotation. Team members work 14 days for typically an hour each, then enjoy 4 weeks off. ***We hope to have the position filled as soon as possible.*** If you have an interest in serving the church in this way, please contact the office at your earliest convenience at 614-875-2314 or secretary@stjohnsgc.org.

OUR NEW FACILITIES MANAGER JERRY FUNK is now on the job! We are thankful that Jerry has agreed to put his years of experience in construction and business administration to work for us. Please continue to use the "Facilities Request" form to alert him to maintenance concerns around the property. His email is jfunk@stjohnsgc.org. Thank you for respecting his role in helping to care for our large facility/grounds used by so many different groups throughout the week.



Graduation 2026

*****Congratulations to our graduating seniors who have worked diligently and have successfully finished strong!**

Dylan Allman

Michael Baldree

Bella Castle

Hannah Carroll

Owen Finley

Eva Harris

Tyler Hart

Ava Jenkins

Emily Larson

Matthew Little

James McFarland

Bethanie Pinyerd

Ella Rauch

Austin Schemrich

Regan Snyder



MUSICIANS NEEDED: We are in need of singers and instrumentalists to play for the worship services this summer. If you play an instrument, can sing a solo, or would like to be a part of a small vocal ensemble, please let me know. I would be happy to rehearse with you to prepare an instrumental or vocal anthem for at a service. As you know, the worshippers at our services are very supportive and appreciative of musicians who share their gifts. Simply send me an email at mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org. Sincerely, Mark Meuser.

ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM: St. John's has its own historic cemetery which is a separate entity from the Grove City Cemetery East/West on Grove City Road. All voting members (as defined in the St. John's Constitution) are granted burial privileges in the cemetery, at no charge for a plot, when the following conditions are met: contact the church office for permission and the next available space(s) to be assigned, then arrange and pay for the monument company to set a headstone within six months of reserving a plot. If a headstone is not set within that time frame, the plot is not considered reserved and will be available for the next requested burial. Please contact Karen Bentley if you have questions about the cemetery.

Our original columbarium with 40 niches, in the southwest corner of the cemetery, has a few remaining spaces. A niche may be reserved by signing a contract and paying the fee of \$600 for the niche and \$250 for the initial engraving on the faceplate. Each opening of the niche and/or engraving incurs additional fees paid to St. John's. We are in the process of ordering and installing a second columbarium to be placed at a right angle to the first columbarium. Fees for the new columbarium niches have not been determined yet. If you are interested in reserving a space in the original columbarium, please contact Kathryn Mullins in the church office by calling 614-875-2314 or emailing secretary@stjohnsgc.org.

NALC CONTINENTAL YOUTH GATHERING - This summer, July 6th -11th, we will be sending 7 youth and 2 adults to the NALC Continental Youth Gathering for a four-day event in Roanoke, VA! Throughout the event, youth, leaders, and volunteers will join in corporate worship, study God's Word, engage in large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through mission events, and engage in fellowship and fun. NALC youth will rally around the powerful theme "Rejoice," living with a joy that lasts.

Please start praying for our youth (Corban & Truman Allman, Lukas Althoff, Davy Clark, Brooklyn Cress, Ben Previts, and Cordelia Wanner) and adult chaperones (Tim and Christina Allman) as they begin to prepare for this trip.

We are asking youth and adults of the congregation to prayerfully consider being prayer buddies during this time! If you have a youth or adult from your faith web that you would love to be prayer buddies with please see Christina Allman to get connected.

While we are at the Youth Gathering, we will be assembling NALC disaster response health kits. We are asking for monetary donations so that we can order supplies and have them shipped directly to the host church in VA so that we are not transporting items in the little packing space we have available. Our goal is to be able to buy enough supplies to create 25 kits which would cost us between \$300-\$400. To support these efforts, donations can be **marked NALC health kits/Youth Designated in a check memo or on an offering envelope**. We will need all donations **by a deadline of June 14th** so that we can purchase items for shipping before we leave.

PROPERTY TEAM MEMBERS meet on the first Monday of the month at 10:00am. 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.

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 by 9am each Wednesday.** Please send your article via email, secretary@stjohnsgc.org, or drop it in the church office secure slot.

IT'S A BABY! Join us for a baby shower for the **Pregnancy Decision Health Centers**. PDHC is a non-profit organization in Central Ohio that provides free medical services, education, and practical support to women and families, particularly those facing unexpected pregnancies. We are collecting diapers, wipes, formula, clothing, and other baby supplies from now through June 14. Stop by the North Entrance to drop off your donations and to help support local moms in need. If you'd like more information about PDHC, visit www.pdhc.org Thank you for your support! ~ Respect Life Team.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on **Tuesday, May 19th** 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.

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.

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 are our lectionary readings for **Sunday, May 24.**

Monday, May 18

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, May 19—Reading: Acts 2:1-21

1. Have you ever traveled to somewhere where you didn't speak the language? What happened?
2. What attracts people from all around to the disciples?

Wednesday, May 20—Reading: Psalm 104

1. How closely does this Psalm follow the creation sequence in Genesis 1?
2. How can knowing that God set the earth on its foundation comfort you?

Thursday, May 21—Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

1. Who has been given spiritual gifts?
2. What are spiritual gifts to be used for?

Friday, May 22—Reading: John 20:19-23

1. Why are the disciples fearful in this moment?
2. How does Jesus deal with our doubt?

Saturday, May 23

Please take a moment to pray for those who have no voice.

Lord, Proverbs 31: 8-9 invites us to speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves. Lord, help us to speak up for those with disabilities. Help us to speak up for those who are oppressed or do not feel safe to open their mouths. Help us to seek justice and love mercy as we walk humbly with You, Lord. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

☞ SUMMER HYMN SCHEDULE ☛

June 6-7	851 When in Our Music God is Glorified 623 Rock of Ages 597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
June 13-14	849 For the Beauty of the Earth 661 I Love to Tell the Story 824 This is My Father's World

June 20-21 731 Earth and All Stars
732 Morning Cry
838 Beautiful Savior
June 27-28 To God Be the Glory
592 Just as I Am, Without One Plea
638 Blessed Assurance

July 4-5 My Country 'Tis of Thee
697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee
841 Lift Every Voice and Sing
July 11-12 836 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
595 Jesus Loves Me
574 Here I Am, Lord
July 18-19 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
In the Garden
654 The Church's One Foundation
July 25-26 705 God of Grace and God of Glory
765 Lord of All Hopefulness
537 On Our Way Rejoicing

August 1-2 556 Morning Has Broken
787 On Eagle's Wings
660 Lift High the Cross
August 8-9 880 O God, Beyond All Praising
608 Softly and Tenderly
805 Lead On, O King Eternal
August 15-16 634 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
723 The Canticle of the Turning
August 22-23 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
790 Day by Day
344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
August 29-30 779 Amazing Grace
785 When Peace Like a River
866 We are Marching in the Light

God Shall Arise

Find the 36 **bold** words from Psalm 68:1-6 (ESV).

W G F R R N A M E X U L T J Z
I P R I S O N E R S E D I R G
D B D G R D T N E V I R D S W
O E F H N E E C B N P R T E I
W F R T O S K Z E Z E N A T Y
S O F E I E O F L T A M G T A
J R Y O T R M L L L O F I L W
M E U U A T S X I E A R H E A
P K H S T S A B O T E H P S S
D E K C I W U C U P A H S M F
L O J N B J S E S I A R P L J
I E G L A D J O Y T O G Y L V
F F A T H E R L E S S T L E M
T N O D N P E R I S H X O W H
D D F F S O N G S E M O H D C

God shall arise, his **enemies** shall be **scattered**; and those who **hate** him shall **flee before** him! As **smoke** is **driven away**, so you shall **drive** them away; as **wax melts** before **fire**, so the **wicked** shall **perish** before God! But the **righteous** shall be **glad**; they shall **exult** before God; they shall be **jubilant** with **joy**! **Sing** to God, sing **praises** to his **name**; **lift** up a **song** to him who **rides** through the **deserts**; his name is the LORD; exult before him! **Father** of the **fatherless** and **protector** of **widows** is God in his **holy habitation**. God **settles** the **solitary** in a **home**; he **leads** out the **prisoners** to **prosperity**, but the **rebellious** **dwell** in a **parched land**.

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☞ YOUTH NEWS ☞

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JUNE 22-25: Mark your calendar!!! Tropical Trek Vacation Bible School is coming to St. John's June 22nd-25th 9:00am to noon. We will be learning that Jesus comes to seek and save. All children ages 3 (potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome. Please note that all children must be potty trained in order to attend. **Online registration is open!** Use the QR code to Register. Contact Christina Allman at 614-519-8092 or at callman@stjohnsgc.org if you want to volunteer or have any questions.



ST. JOHNSVILLE: This Summer during the Sunday School hour, 7th-12th (grade just finished in the 25-26 school year) will be participating in **St. Johnsville**. This is a fun, real life simulation where kids will have a job, a home, and finances to maintain. We will need adult help running this activity. If you are interested in hanging out with some really amazing kids and growing your faith web, please see Gini or Donna for more information. Even if you can't come every week, we would love to have you! **St. Johnsville will start on May 31st** during the Sunday School hour in the Confirmation Room.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR is taking off until June. Thank you for raising your voice in praising our Lord! We will see you in June!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH will take off for the month of May. Please join us again in June!

IQA for High Schoolers. Join Gini for IQA Bible Study on Zoom every Monday from 7:30-8:30pm. We would love to see you there!

JOYFUL PAUSE: Come when you can and leave when you have to! It's a summer open house at St. John's on **Thursdays - June 11, July 16, and August 13!** Times are **9:30am to 12:30pm and 5:30 – 8:30pm**. Choose which time you'd like to attend (or stop by both)! We will have tables set up in the gym with various activities: games, puzzles, arts and crafts, cards ... plus open gym ... and special guests! Pizza and drinks will be available around lunch and dinnertime. All ages are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors! This is a family event and we ask that parents or grandparents stay and enjoy the pause with their youth! Contact Karrie Clark with questions at karriejclark@gmail.com.

☞ STEWARDSHIP ☞

ATTENDANCE **Sunday, May 10** - **317**

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Men's Chorale Rehearsal, Choir Room.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Faith Discussion, FH Rm 001 / Gospel of Mark, 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, MAY 17

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Sunday School Hour
11:00am Combined Worship (Sanc)
1:00pm Life-to-Life (103-4)
2:00pm Private Event (Café)
6:00pm Saddles n Such 4-H (FH)

MONDAY, MAY 18

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (SH, 102)
5:00pm Call Team (Lib)
6:00pm Exercise Class (FLC)
6:00pm Life-to-Life (off-site)
6:30pm Council (103-4)
7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (FH)

TUESDAY, MAY 19

7:00am Men's Prayer Group (Café)
12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (103-4)
6:00pm Friends of the Library (102)
6:00pm Girl Scouts #6679 (301)
6:30pm Blue Ribbon 4-H (103-4)
7:00pm Boy Scouts #392 (SH)
7:00pm Life-to-Life (Chapel)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

1:00pm Small Group (Lib)
3:00pm Private Event (Lib)
6:30pm Women's Chorale (Sanc)
7:00pm Design for Living AA (FH)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanc)

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Friday
from 8am to 4pm.**

THURSDAY, MAY 21

8:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)
9:00am Eagle Mailing Prep (204)
9:30am Life-to-Life (103-4)
11:00am Eagle Mailing Team (204)
3:00pm Bulletin Team (Lib)
6:15pm Celebration Ringers (Sanc)

FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:30am Bible Study (103-4)
10:00am Life-to-Life (204)
2:00pm Private Event (101)
3:00pm Men's Chorale (Choir Rm)
5:30pm Life-to-Life (off-site)
8:30pm AA (FH)

SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)
9:30am Confirmation Faith
Celebration (Café, Sanc,
Overflow)
9:30am Sunday School Hour
11:00am Combined Worship (Sanc)
12:00pm Private Event (FH)
12:00pm Private Event (SH)
1:00pm Life-to-Life (103-4)

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