

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

DATED MATERIALS

AUGUST 2026

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Grove City, Ohio 43123-3297



The Eagle

AUGUST 2026

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Traditional

Saturdays at 4pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 11am

Contemporary

Sundays at 11am

www.stjohnsgc.org



august

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 meeting on
Saturday, August 8th at 9am
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, Sept. 7th at 6:30pm

Sarah Circle
Contact
Diane Carducci
614-871-7588

Monday, August 24th at 7pm



On August 30th at 10:45am, we will combine our three Sunday worship services into one grand outdoor youth led worship event!

Bring lawn chairs and dress causal as we gather by our Shelter House to praise God under His clear blue sky. Note that the 4pm worship service will be held as usual Saturday, August 29th, but please join us on Sunday for the picnic!

This year, we are hosting Youth Sunday at our Outdoor Worship Service. Not only will our youth lead the worship service, they will share about their NALC Continental Youth Gathering experience through this time of worship and fellowship. We will gather in the Shelter House (weather permitting) for the **Outdoor Worship Service**. Afterwards, we will remain for the **Church Picnic!** Everything will be provided for the picnic; however, we will be collecting a 'free will offering' to help offset the cost.

All donations will be greatly appreciated!
Please bring a dessert to share.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN AS OF July 12TH, 2026

Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Michael Holcomb** by Shelia Holcomb
 Given in memory of **Toni Wilson** by Marilyn Moser; Cheryl Thompson; and Dellno and Betty Lewis
 Given in memory of **Kristen Millet** by Richard and Shelah Stage; Jacqueline Rutan; and Dellno and Betty Lewis
 Given in memory of **Jim Braskett** by Linda Wagner; Ed and Glenda Sheets; Wilma Phillips; Debbie and Rick Boehm; Thomas and Luanne Justus; Raymond and Karen Bentley; Vi Davis; Paul and Mitzie Schemrich; Bill and Martha Graul; Jim and Carol Rorick; Dellno and Betty Lewis; Erle and Judy Taylor; Larry and Becky Link; Richard and Shelah Stage; Andrea Offenburger; Jack and Sharon Koehler; Jill and Jeff Williams; Marilyn Wright; Michael and Deborah Gibboney; Jim Norris; Ralph Kropp; Sue Olney & family; and the Spillman Family
 Given in memory of **Virginia Bent** by Larry and Becky Link

Bed Brigade Fund

Given in memory of **Michael Waller** by Susie Waller

Youth Memorial Fund

Given in memory of **Jim Braskett** by an anonymous donor
 Given in memory of **Virginia Bent** by an anonymous donor

Vacation Bible School Fund

Given in memory of **Philip Pennington** by Abigail BruBaker

OWLS Fund

Given in memory of **Virginia Bent** by Dellno and Betty Lewis

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Joyful Pause: Come when you can and leave when you have to! It's our last summer open house at St. John's on Thursday, August 13! Times are 9:30am - 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 and rooms 103-104 with various activities: games, puzzles, arts and crafts, cards ... plus open gym! 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.

**MISSION:
POSSIBLE**

Mission Possible: is a service and fellowship event that will be occurring on Saturdays throughout this summer aimed towards middle and high school students. We'll be serving throughout our community and growing our faith networks, while discussing how to be 'agents' of God. For more information, please reach out to Gini Rogers at grogers@stjohnsgc.org. Save the date for our last one on Saturday, August 1. Gini and Donna would love for you to join them!

**Blessing of the
BackPacks
and the
School Year**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th IS BACKPACK BLESSING!

Students of all ages and teachers!

Bring your backpack or lunchbox with you to church on **Sunday, August 16th** and pastors will say a special blessing over you, your backpack, your lunchbox, and your school year during worship at each service!

IQA is a Bible study for middle and high school students that meets every Monday night from 7:30-8:30pm over Zoom. For more information or the Zoom link, please reach out to Gini Rogers at grogers@stjohnsgc.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL will not meet Sunday, September 6th. Rally day will be September 13th.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets every Thursday from 5-6pm. Contact Kate Shrum if you would like your child to participate!



RaiseRight™

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.**

**kroger community
rewards**



**Connect your KROGER
card with the COMMUNITY
REWARDS PROGRAM.**

Go to [https://www.kroger.com/
communityrewards](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!

We had another blessed year at VBS!!

Thank you for all the donations and all the support to make VBS happen each year. We had a wonderful time teaching youth that Jesus Seeks and Find Us no matter where we are during Tropical Trek VBS! We could not have put on such an amazing VBS without the help of our VBS teachers, kitchen ladies, craft and recreation leaders, science and service leaders, puppet leader, music leaders, and our awesome teen helpers! It is these hard-working people that make it a blessing each year to love kids into the kingdom at VBS!!

RALLY DAY AND BIBLE SUNDAY:

Rally Day will take place on September 13th during the Sunday School Hour. Age 2 years old through 6th grade will meet in the FLC. 7th and 8th grades will have confirmation orientation starting in the sanctuary. This year, Rally Day will also be Bible Sunday!! The following groups will receive an age-appropriate Bible as a gift from the congregation during the worship services: students starting pre-school, incoming 3rd graders, and our 7th graders going into confirmation. If you have a child in one of these groups, please plan on attending worship September 13th.



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.

To my St. John's Family,

After a great deal of prayer and reflection, I have decided to step down from my role as High School Youth Director at the end of this summer. Serving alongside our students and their families over the past several years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I am deeply grateful for the relationships we have built, the opportunities to witness God working in the lives of our youth, and the support and encouragement our congregation has shown to our program all along the way. While this decision was not made lightly, I believe it is the right time for me to transition into a new season of life. I leave this role with a heart full of gratitude and confidence in the future of this ministry, knowing that I am leaving our youth in very capable hands. Thank you for allowing me to serve, grow, and share in the life of this congregation. I will always cherish the memories and friendships formed here, and I look forward to seeing how God continues to work in this church and in the lives of our students.

In God's Love, Gini

We thank Gini for her outpouring of her time and talents this past several years as she has fulfilled God's calling to be in the faith web of so many of our middle and high school youth!

Please join the youth staff as we host a reception for Gini Rogers on August 23rd in the Shelter House during the Sunday School Hour from 9:30 to 10:30am.

Feel free to send a card or written note of appreciation to the office, 3220 Columbus Street, Grove City, OH 43123, or bring to the reception to shower Gini with God's words of encouragement as she steps into her next chapter.

Confirmation Orientation



For returning 8th graders (2nd year students) and incoming 7th graders (1st year students), we will have confirmation orientation on Sunday, September 13th (Rally Day for our younger students) from 9:30 - 10:30am starting in the sanctuary and concluding in the confirmation room (304). We will send more information out as the date approaches but if you have any questions reach out to Christina Allman.

OWLS EVENT AUGUST 21, 2026

The Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) are at it again! Join us for lunch and hear the latest news about our beautiful town of Grove City. Mayor Ike Stage will be our special speaker, and no one knows Grove City better than he does. We are honored to welcome him back and look forward to hearing his update.



September 18th is the date for our annual trip to Der Dutchman in Plain City.
Mark your calendars now so you won't miss it!!
Details will be in next month's Eagle.

The OWLS would love to see you there but **PLEASE make your reservation using the salmon sheet**, or call either the church office or Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002. We will provide fried chicken and meat loaf for our potluck lunch, but we ask you to bring a covered dish. Hope you come and join your friends (old and new) for a delicious lunch and a wonderful program. Please plan to arrive around 11:15 am so we can open the meeting at 11:30 am. Hope to see you there!



Quilters

You, the congregation, and the Quilters are partners in making and filling the Christmas bags for the needy children. The Quilters truly appreciate your willing participation in this ministry. The Quilters make and you help us fill 100 Christmas bags for the children at the Grove City Food Pantry with small, useful items. School supplies continue to be on sale at various stores. We are in need of Crayola crayons in boxes of 24 crayons that are on sale for \$.50 a box. The larger boxes do not fit in our bags. We can use glue sticks, sturdy combs, nail clippers, pencils, small notepads if you find a good deal on them. Next month, Halloween candy will start to appear on store shelves in full force. Please buy enough of this "sweetenin' power" to have leftover Halloween candy for the Christmas bags. Remember the candy needs to have an expiration date of 2027. In the fall, we will start to cut and sew the Christmas bags. We can use your help in cutting and sewing the bags. Thank you for thinking about Halloween candy and Christmas giving in August.

Do you need a special gift for someone? We have a variety of small quilts suitable to give as baby shower gifts and warm sofa throw quilts. Stop by any Tuesday or call the church to reach a quilter.

The Quilters meet every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm or thereabouts in rooms 103-4. We are a very small group of about 4-7 people and like to see new faces. Come and stay as you are able and desire. We don't punch a timecard. Bring your packed lunch or a snack if you wish. All materials are provided. You can always just sit and join in the conversation. We welcome all.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

NALC CONTINENTAL YOUTH GATHERING – *What a week we had at the NALC Continental Youth Gathering (CYG) in Roanoke, VA!* Throughout the event, we were able to 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. Our teens and adults experience a great week of growth, networking, and team bonding! We were able to put our Bible knowledge and teamwork together to win the Roaming Roanoke challenge. We got to help at 3 different mission sites such as Feeding Southwest Virginia, Straight Street teen ministries, and the host church. We also were a large help in supplying items so that 1200+ NALC disaster relief kits could be made—through your donations we sent an initial supply load ahead of us and were even able to purchase more supplies once on site to help finish kits! Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and support as we attended CYG! **In two years, we are planning to attend CYG with the theme FULFILLED in Rantoul, Illinois on July 10-15th 2028 for any student who has completed 7th grade. Mark your calendars!!**

**SARAH CIRCLE asks your help collecting the following items
for health kits for the Grove City Food Pantry.**

One kit includes:

Dental floss	Full size toothbrush	Full size toothpaste (check expiration)
Emery board	nail clippers	sturdy comb
Full size deodorant	one dark washcloth	two bars of wrapped soap
		one dark bath towel

Our goal is to make 50 kits. If you would like to help, dollar stores are a good place to shop. Please mark items "For Sarah Circle" and put in the Quilters' cupboard in the Link. Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated to our baby item drive. All items were given to the Pregnancy Decision Health Center on West Broad Street, and they will be given out as needed to support pregnant women and new moms who need some extra support. Please pray for PDHC and the work that they do to support women and families who find themselves in difficult situations. -Respect Life Team

PROPERTY TEAM MEMBERS

meet 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.

**ST. JOHN'S GOODTIME
IRISH BAND**

is looking for a male tenor or baritone who loves to sing. If interested or curious, please call Mike Cunningham at 614-561-5214, text, or email at fmichaelc51@gmail.com.

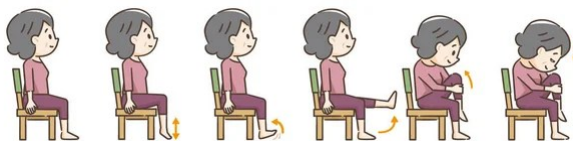
**St. John's will be hosting a
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE in
the FLC on TUESDAY,
August 25th from 12-6pm.**

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

MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

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

Everyone is welcome! 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 1-3lb. 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!

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Patricia A. Morlock, Pastor 614-875-2314
pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org 740-405-1548

Christina Allman 614-875-2314
Interim Grades K–6/Families
callman@stjohnsgc.org

Tim Allman 614-875-2314
Sunday School Superintendent

Jerry Funk 614-875-2314
Facilities Manager, jfunk@stjohnsgc.org

Megan Grossman 614-875-2314
Lay Ministry Director, mgrossman@stjohnsgc.org

Nick Grossman 614-875-2314
Contemporary Worship Leader

Susan Locey, Bell Choir Director 614-208-8215

Mark Meuser 614-875-2314
Director of Music, mmeuser@stjohnsgc.org

Kathryn Mullins 614-875-2314
Office Administrator, kmullins@stjohnsgc.org

Gini Rogers 614-875-2314
Interim Grades 9-12, grogers@stjohnsgc.org

David Shrum 614-875-2314
Contemporary Music Leader

Kate Shrum 614-875-2314
Children's Choir Director

Donna Westerfeld 614-875-2314
Interim Grades 7-8, dwesterfeld@stjohnsgc.org

Jamie Wise 614-875-2314
Recorder, jwise@stjohnsgc.org

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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

Members-At-Large: Cindy Gonsowski, Dennis Imbrock, Abby Johnston, Doug Knisely, Susan Previts, David Stallard, Bonnie Swanson, Amy Wanner.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to

the family and friends of **Jim Black**,
father of Kathy Myers,
who passed away on June 12, 2026.

the family and friends of **Jim Braskett**,
who passed away on June 16, 2026.

the family and friends of **Ginny Bent**,
who passed away on July 3, 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.**



**The article deadline for the AUGUST
Eagle is AUGUST 10TH.**

Email announcements & articles to
secretary@stjohnsgc.org
or leave a handwritten copy in the church office.



The Eagle

August 2026

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Letter from the Pastor

Dear Disciples of Jesus,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, praying in joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:3-6)

As we look forward to September and a whole host of new beginnings, we celebrate and rejoice in the newest of all, our new Senior Pastor and our new Director of Youth Ministries.

I know I printed something similar when our last Senior Pastor arrived, and it bears repeating even more so with two new arrivals. Once they have officially begun, take some time to get to know them. Not just reading their bios, but really what makes them tick? Invite them to lunch – without an agenda, just to get to know them. How has God uniquely gifted them? How can you be in prayer for them? They'll appreciate your effort.

For the Pastor:

Show up for church. Not just his first Sunday, which was HUGE, but in the subsequent Sundays as well. Invest in the continued success of YOUR congregation by supporting your new pastor with your presence, your participation, and your prayer.

Resist quick judgments. Stressed, tired, nervous, uncertain, excited, eager – this new pastor of yours may be feeling all of this and more as he begins his ministry with you. Not only has he moved to an unfamiliar town, he knows no one, and has a lot to take care of to get settled. And, oh yeah, do the ministry besides! So cut him some slack and look beyond your first impressions. Extend him overflowing measures of grace and invest in getting to know how you can be in this ministry TOGETHER. He simply cannot be expected to make the changes necessary for growth alone. Nor can he be all things to all people.

Finally, expect the best – from yourself, from one another, and from your pastor. Things are changing. This is a new season in ministry. How can you invest in the success of this ministry in ways that will assure a positive outcome? Here are a few hints:

Don't compare what has been, to what your new pastor is trying to do.

Don't expect everything to stay the same if you want to grow – that includes YOU.

Don't gossip, complain, or listen to those who do. Lighten up!

The "good old days" deny that God has something even greater in store – look ahead, not behind!

Do not come to your former pastor with anything but praise for the new pastor – take your concerns to God in humble prayer.

And finally, my friends, trust God, stay connected to God, draw strength from God, stay deeply rooted in God's Word, and share deeply in the measures of receiving and giving of God's grace. For God is so very good, and He will never leave you or forsake you. To Him be all Glory!

Looking forward in faith

Pastor Patti