

THE EAGLE

St. John Lutheran Church
Greenville, OH



Mission Statement: *Growing in grace. Living by faith. Serving with love.*

St. John Lutheran Church: 7418 St. Rt. 121 N. Greenville, OH 45331

Website: www.stjohnluthgreenvilleohio.org

Rev. Alliyah Blakeley

Office Phone: (937) 548-5404

Office Email: stjohnluthoffice@gmail.com

January 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In early December, I was making a nursing home visit and happened to see a man carrying up one-by-one each of the three wise men for a large nativity set that was being put together. I commented "Have they come to see the newborn king too?" it was too cold outdoors for small talk, but the man smiled and said "Yes. You've got it!"

One of my favorite things about Advent and the Christmas season is how you can hardly go a block without some decoration, nativity set, or sign reminding you of the joy of the season and Christ in our midst! Some of the Christmas decor might be a stretch as far as how it relates to the birth of Jesus Christ, but for Christians hopefully we see how the world around us declares the glory of God. As we put away our decorations for the season, with our trees, our lights, and even those diligent wise men – let us take care not to "put away" Christ for the year. After all, he has promised to be "Emmanuel" God with us, and we need Him all year round!

Though decorations are one of the ways we remind ourselves of Christ all around us during Advent – in scripture we are reminded that it is God's Word that acts as the reminder of God's presence and promise. Scripture says the word will be written on their hearts, and that we are to let the word of Christ richly dwell within us (Colossians 3:16). As we clean up our homes and calendars for the new year ahead – this is one image I'd encourage you to think-on. Are our hearts and lives decorated in the Word of God and promises of Scripture? If not, the beginning of a new year is a great time to begin a new devotional or Bible Reading plan. Many members in our congregation enjoy reading the daily devotionals in the "Daily Bread" available for free at church, others enjoy plans that go through the entire Bible in a year or maybe studying a book at a time. Whatever plan you use, I would encourage you that time spent in God's Word is never wasted - but you may find out God will use the very verses you've been reading or memorizing to encourage you or encourage someone through you.

As the nativity sets are put away, the wisemen's journey is not at completion – but has just begun – we still have the privilege to seek Christ the King, in His word, in worship, in prayer, and sacrament! Let us adorn our lives with his word in the year to come!

As a final note about New Year house-keeping and heart-keeping, you may have read or heard, we are starting up a new One Call Prayer Chain system at the church, if you'd like to get connected with it and hear the prayer requests of our members, please sign up using the form at church or in your newsletter. And continue to keep your church in prayer as we step into the New Year following Christ – prayer makes a difference in our community, our individual lives, and the lives of our neighbor, it is yet another one of God's ways that he carves His word into our hearts so we might know our purpose in Him.

Blessings to you in 2025 as you too seek Christ!

+ Pastor Alliyah

This Month's Prayer Requests

Pray for God's presence and comfort for those who are listed below.

Assisted Living, Nursing Care, & Homebound:

Jackie Beisner, Joan Blaine, Randy Coblentz, Duane Shields, Carl Strobel

On-going Illness & Recovery:

Jackie Beisner, Delores & Lester Beisner, Joan Blaine, Leslie Borgmeier, Jim Gower, Joe Heindl, Mark Howdieshell, Kelly Kelch, Don Lucas, Pr. Peter & Connie Menke, Jack Myers, Don McCabe, Lori Mehaffie, Ryan Nichols, Fred Prasuhn, Barb (Willman) Rhoads, John Rismiller, Sheryl Rismiller, Duane Shields, Ann Starks, Carl Strobel, Lori Trittschuh, Casey Voisin, and Phyllis Whitesel.

Military:

Lt Col Brian Sturdevant – SCOTT AFB, IL
M Sgt Steven Pagett – N LAS VEGAS, NV

In Sympathy:

We lift up the family of Connie Hart, who passed in December, in our heartfelt prayers of sympathy. The funeral service is schedule for December 28th at Zechar Bailey's funeral home.

This list is presented in the hope that our members will remember to pray, visit and send cards to these people. This is one way to show our love and concern for them and that they are a vital part of St. John's Church Family. If you desire to be removed from the prayer lists, please contact the Church Office or the Internal Care Team.

In the event of illness or hospitalization, please let us know by calling the Church Office (937) 548-5404.

New Church One Call System

We have a new church one-call system, it offers both voice messages and text messages – please sign up with the form in your newsletter to be added, or turn in one of the one call forms to the Church Office. We hope to have these all collected by January 7.

JANUARY READINGS

January 5, 2025 – Second Sunday of Christmas

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15
Psalm: 119:97-104
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

January 12, 2025 –Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm: 29
Second Reading: Romans 6:10-11
Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

January 19, 2025 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: 128
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 26, 2025 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

January Altar Flowers:

All Sundays are open in January. Sign-up for 2025 is available in the Gathering Area, if you would like to provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion you can write your name and information on the 2025 chart.

Instructions for Altar Flower Sign-up

- Select a date on flower chart wall calendar located on glass window outside church office, add your name.
- Complete donation form by Monday, the week before your chosen Sunday, for the bulletin announcement.
- Select a florist and plan for Friday anytime, or Sat before noon delivery.

Delivery:

1. Helen's Flowers can make delivery
 2. Deliver yourself using your entry fob
 3. Sign out a fob for temporary use with the church office. There are tin cans available as substitute for a vase that are optional to return.
- NOTE: In Honor of ..., in Memory of ..., In celebration of ..., are popular notes. Other options praising God or giving glory to Him are common too. Tradition has been fresh cut flowers, but recently we have seen artificial flowers and potted flowers used as well.

Previous Month's Reports

Nov Attendance		Dec Attendance	
11/03/24	111	12/01/24	83
11/10/24	76	12/08/24	64
11/17/24	74	12/15/24	74
11/24/24	91	12/22/24	72
		12/24/24	158
		12/29/24	58

Council Report –December Council Update

1. Council approved a request by Swinging 8’s Square Dancers to change the Fellowship Hall usage time on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 to 8:00 pm to 1:00 am to accommodate a New Year’s Eve Dance. All St. John Members are invited to attend.
2. Council approved the Cemetery Board be co-chaired by Jim Sander and Donovan Brown with Tom Boyer, Kent Beisner and LuAnn Boyer as Board Members.

2025 Church Council

Our newly elected Council Positions for 2025 are Church President: Bill Osterbur, Church Vice President: Tammy Green, Church Council Secretary: Barbara Anthony. The 2025 Council Members will be installed in January. Full list of 2025 Council Members is as follows: Barbara Anthony, Tom Boyer, Mike Boyer, Don Dietrich, Tammy Green, Bill Osterbur, Bruce Strobel, Denise Suter, Diane Wentworth.

Finances – For November 2024

Building Improvement Fund Balance 30-November-24: \$ 39,275
 Status of Current Operating Fund as of: 30-November-24: \$ 190,873
 My E-Offering for November 2024: \$ 1934.70

	Offering	Expenses	Difference
Month Nov 2024	\$ 21,904	\$ 16,519	\$ 5,385
YTD Nov 2024	\$ 227,420	\$ 220,106	\$ 7,314
Month Nov 2023	\$ 19,873	\$ 19,991	\$(117)
YTD Nov 2023	\$ 223,596	\$ 206,155	\$ 17,441

For detail account information, see bulletin board across from the Finance Office.

Online Giving

Giving online is convenient and secure. If you would like to give your offering online, please visit our Church Website www.stjohngreenvilleohio.org and click on the “DONATE NOW-MYEOFFERING” button.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Swinging 8’s Square Dance group is hosting a New Year’s party and would like to invite you – if you would like to attend there is more information in the gathering area.

Fellowship: “Meet our Members”

January 12th, after church we’ll have a “Meet our Members” Sunday – introduce yourself to new members, get to know old members a little better, learn something new about someone you sit in the pew with each week. This will take place directly after church in the Parish Hall, please wear your name tag – and optionally bring some cookies or sweet treats to share if you’d like!



Team Reports are Due January 13th

Team Reports are due for St. John’s 2024 Annual Report – please email your report: stjohnluthoffice@gmail.com or turn in to the church office.

January’s All Team Meeting

The next All Team meeting will be on January 30th at 6 PM. Consider joining a ministry team in the new year – there are plenty of ways to serve at St. John.

Monthly Grief Support

First Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm -7:00pm. Located at Wayne Healthcare on the First Floor Community Room 2. Use Harrison St. Entrance. This session is open to anyone looking for grief support in a casual setting.

CONNECT GROUPS

ROMEO'S – Retired Old Men Eating Out

R.O.M.E.O.'s—If you are a retired gentleman here at St. John's, this is some of what you could be missing. Next ROMEO outing will be Thursday, be **January 2nd & January 16th**. We leave the parking lot at 9:00am.

JULIET'S – Join Us Ladies In Eating Together

Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, January 22nd**. We will meet at the church parking lot at 10:15 sharp and carpool to St. Henry Nite Club located at 262 W Main Street, St. Henry, OH. 419-678-2206 Please invite a friend. Any questions call Donna Howdieshell.

Sewing Group All women are invited and there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area. Please invite a friend. Any questions call Donna Howdieshell.

The sewing group meets every 3rd Monday of the month at **9:00 a.m.** in the Parish Hall. We will meet again **January 20th**.

Kitted Together in Christ – Bible Study, Women of the Bible Speak, Bible Study and Baby Blanket crochet/knit.

We have added more stock to the yarn supply. Please take the opportunity to check out some of the new yarn. You may pick up yarn in the room next to the finance office. We will also have printed prayers that can be prayed over the blankets as you make them.

Our next Bible Study meeting will be Tuesday **January 21st** **(Please Note Change)** We will be studying and comparing Hannah and Miriam from the books of 1 Samuel and Exodus.

Additional meeting dates for 2025 season are February 11th, March 11th, and April 8th.

We are working towards a goal of 100 blankets donated in the spring. If you are interested in making blankets and/or taking part in the Bible Study, please contact Laura Gower or Amanda Hill.

Women's Bible Study & Circle Meeting



ESTHER: It's Tough Being a Woman by Beth Moore: *Lesson 9*

This in-depth study will lead women through a journey of tragedy and triumph, teaching you how to trust God's caring and provision for the tough times. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it is tough today. This is a combination of individual study and monthly group sessions which will continue for the next 9 months.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 8th at St. John**. We look forward to you joining us.

It's Time for Some Dartball!

Our Dartball season continues! If you like baseball/softball, you may like dartball. The games are played on Monday nights. We have FUN and FOOD!! Sign up and Schedule in the Gathering area. Contact: Lori Trittschuh.

	UPCOMING DART BALL SCHEDULE
12/30/24	Trinity at St John @ 7:30 PM
1/6/24	St John at FUMC @ 7:30 PM
1/13/25	Pitsburg @ St. John @ 7:30 PM
1/27/25	EUM #2 @ St John @ 7:30 PM

ST. JOHN OUTREACH

(Local Outreach) Soup Kitchen December

We always try to serve a special meal in December. So, today we offered baked ham from Eikenberry's, cheesy potatoes courtesy of Betsy Smith and mixed vegetables provided by Birdie Kitchen. Eikenberry's crafted Christmas tree donuts for our dessert. We served 42 meals with one gentleman commenting that the meals at GRCC are always good, but this was the best meal ever. Other members of today's team were Jim Sander, Darrel and Elaine Roan and Carol Bruss.

Our next meal will be served on January 14. We plan on serving ham and bean soup, corn muffins, slaw and a dessert.

WAYS TO GIVE & SERVE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

Our Christian Education Team is an important part of our church's ministry, fellowship, growth, and faith building together. The team works together to find compelling curriculum, recruit and support teachers, create congregation educational resources and encourage students in special milestones (like Confirmation and Graduation). If this sounds like something you have interest, gifts, or opinions in please prayerfully pray over joining this important team or reach out with questions. We are hoping to increase members involved. If you have questions reach out to Pastor Alliyah or Dave Suter.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN JANUARY

Jan 5 – *No Adult Sunday School (New Year)*

Jan 12 – *Meet the Members – fellowship event*

Jan 19 – *Mission Presentation: Pr. Wayne (One Plus God Ministries)*

Jan 26 – *TBD*

Feb 2 – *Mission Presentation: The House Lulu Built*

Feb 9 – *Chosen (Season 4) Study Begins*

Be sure to make a plan to attend these learning sessions after worship this Winter! Jeff Gower will be leading us through Season Four of "The Chosen" beginning **February 9th**. This compelling series takes a personal look at the life and ministry of Jesus

Christ – we hope you consider jumping in and attending.



Youth For Christ Volunteers Needed

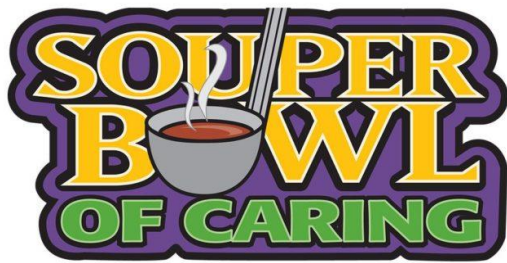
Youth For Christ is a wonderful organization with ministries involved in serving many local towns. Recently their Darke County Director, Erin Ayyette came to the Greater Greenville Ministerial Association to bring our attention for the need for volunteers. There are needs for folks in many different types of experience including prayer support. If you are interested, Pastor Alliyah has an information pamphlet or you can check out information on their website, or call 937-548-2477.

Mission Presentation: January 19

On Jan 19, Pr. Wayne from One Plus God Ministries will be joining us for a presentation on Mission and the Church, join us during worship and also for his Mission Presentation following the service during our Adult Sunday School hour.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Youth Team Project

St John Youth is again sponsoring the Souper Bowl of Caring for 2025. The community needs are greater than ever and all of the monies and food items will be split equally between FISH and GRCC. The table will be set up January 19th with a final collection date of February 9, 2025. Please, just a friendly reminder to check the expiration dates of any food items as both pantries will not accept outdated items. There will be a suggested list of needs available and also a soup pot for monetary donations if shopping and toting groceries is not for you. Let's all work together to support our community. If you have any questions please see, Laura Gower, Denise Suter or Betsy Smith.



Thrivent Action Teams in 2024 & 2025

What a terrific year of using Thrivent Action Teams towards the ministry of St. John! *Thank you* to all who used funds this year – from Disaster Relief, Bible Distribution, Michael's Home Collection, Oktoberfest, Fair Outreach, Knitting & Crochet Group, and more – we made a difference this year because of you!

If you have an idea of how to use a Thrivent Action Team in 2025 and are a Thrivent member, please call your Thrivent Representative or Pastor Alliyah – we can help you with your Thrivent Team application.

Care Partners for Grieving Members

The Internal Care team has made a purchase of some special grief booklets that will be used to minister to those who are grieving the recent loss of a loved one. We are in need of some members who would be willing to serve as **Care Partners**. These Care Partners would be assigned to one family or person with the responsibility of sending these booklets by mail to them four times during the year, and commit to praying for the family for one year after their loss. If you are interested in serving in this important roll,

please contact the Internal Care Team for more information. *Thank you* to all those who have already volunteered or have been part of this meaningful ministry.

INTERNAL CARE NOTE

In the event of a new illness or injury, following a surgery, or the death of a St. John member, your Internal Caring Team can deliver food to your home if needed. We are here to help you get through these struggles. Please contact Shirley Crotcher, Linda Brown, Sue Sharp or Carol Hoop at if you need assistance.

Safety & Security Team Tip:

If you don't take the time to be healthy, you will take the time to be sick. Be safe!!

IN THANKSGIVING

We are Grateful for your Kindness and Compassion During our Time of Loss

Please extend our appreciation to the congregation of St. John's for their consolation and prayers during this time. The service was beautiful and just what Velma would have wanted!

The Family of Velma Lucas

Thank You!

Dear Supporters & Friends at St. John Lutheran Church,

The Christmas season is upon us. What a wonderful time to reflect on the reason we celebrate and share the news with others. Thank you for your gift that will help us continue on our journey to spread the news of Jesus Christ to the school children. We appreciate your continued support, both financially and in prayers.

Thank you so very much,

Vivian Brumbaugh ARA Treasurer

Michael's Ministry Thank You -



On behalf of all of our staff and residents, Michael's Resource & Treatment Center would like to thank Saint John Lutheran Church for their generosity. We are blessed to have your support

in serving our youth as well as their families. Your congregation's contribution will directly assist our youth in care and provide them with more opportunities during their stay. Thank you for your support in serving at-risk youth.

Thank you, - Amanda Barger
Human Resources / Business Administrator
Michael's Resource & Treatment Center

LMVFM – THANK YOU FOR HOSTING!

With The LMVFM team just returned from our trip to St John Lutheran Church in Greenville, OH. We want to thank Carol Hoop who invited us, and Pr. Blakeley for hosting us. We appreciate the time we had for the temple talk before service and program time with parishioners after the service. Having the opportunity to share the mission and work with veterans, contractors and their family members with members of the congregation was a great blessing. Thank you again members of St John's for your continued support of our ministry. You are a blessing to us and those we serve.

- Lutheran Military & Veteran Family Ministry



Thanks from Pastor Alliyah

Dear St. John, It has been wonderful to be with you for another year in shared ministry together! God is working through in our community and beyond – thank you for the many ways you were Christ's hands and feet this year – through gifts of service, time, talent, and treasure!

Finally, a word of heartfelt gratitude to those who gave towards the staff Christmas Gift or sent Christmas greetings! All so very generous, and so very appreciated. It is an honor to serve this congregation. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Pr. Alliyah

Thank you from Bishop Dan Selbo of the North American Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

In this holy season, we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is God with us. May His presence fill you with peace, joy, love, and hope that endures forever. Rejoice! To us a Savior has been born!

Bishop Dan Selbo & Staff

North American Lutheran Church

With much gratitude,

Dear friends at St. John Lutheran Church,

A sincere thank you from me for all the Christmas goodies and generous staff gift. I am forever grateful for the kindness you have shown me these last two years. May you all be surrounded by God's blessings this New Year and many more to come!

Jessica Gonzalez

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- 1 Priscilla Bible Study
- 11 Council Retreat
- 12 Meet the Members Sunday
- 13 Women's Board Meeting
- 14 Soup Kitchen @ GRCC, Knitted in Christ Knitting & Crochet Group
- 19 Mission Presentation
- 20 Women's Work Day, Newsletter Deadline
- 23 Newsletter Fold
- 30 All Team Meeting

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM

Holy Communion: Jan 5 & Jan 19th

OFFICE NOTES & REMINDERS

Inclement Weather Reminder

If Darke County is under a Level 3 Emergency, we will cancel church. "One Call" and the Church Facebook Page will also be used for notification of church cancellation. Notices will be broadcast on WHIO Channel 7 and Radio Station 1290.

Deadline for submitting articles and updates to schedules and calendars for the *FEBRUARY EAGLE* is: **Monday, January 20th, 2025**

St. John Office Hours 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Monday through Friday **Office is closed January 1st**

The Eagle is a monthly publication for the members and friends of **St. John Lutheran Church**, 7418 St. Rt. 121 N, Greenville, Ohio 45331, (937) 548-5404. **Large print** newsletter available upon request.

**I would like to be added to
St. John's NEW Church One-Call System**

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____ (One form per #)

YES I would like to receive One Call **ALL CALL Voice Mail Messages**

YES I would like to receive One Call **ALL CALL Text Messages**

"ALL CALL" – Messages coordinated by Pastor, Office, or Council
President pertaining to Church Closure, Church Member Funerals or
Deaths, Special Service Times, Community / Church Emergencies

YES I would like to receive One Call **PRAYER CHAIN Voice Mail**

Messages
YES I would like to receive One Call **PRAYER CHAIN Text Messages**

"PRAYER CHAIN" – Messages coordinated by Prayer Chain Leaders and
Pastor pertaining to member illness and member prayer requests for
members and non-members. * When requesting prayer on behalf of
another please make sure you have permission when sharing personal
information.

YES I would be willing to be part of the **PRAYER CHAIN
COORDINATORS** if trained & if more coordinators are needed
(smart phone required to be prayer chain coordinator).

OTHER NOTES / COMMENTS / QUESTIONS:

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

***If your phone number changes, or your desire to receive one-call
messages changes, please contact the church office at (937) 548-
5404 so we can keep our lists and information current.**

Please turn this form into the office or at information table in back.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN PAY-IT-FORWARD 2024

As we participate again in the St. John Pay-It-Forward program, we realize even more that this is such an awesome way to share God's love. This year after praying for His guidance, we decided to donate the funds to the Darke County Pregnancy Help Center and a Darke County family in need.

For the third year, we have partnered with the Darke County Pregnancy Help Center in Greenville. Jeannette Shuff, the director, distributed approximately \$700.00 among the center's clients in 2024. Per Jeannette, the stories about the recipients are as follows:



- 1) We encountered a mother who initially considered abortion but ultimately decided to keep her child. Unfortunately, she experienced complications that necessitated an early delivery, resulting in an extended hospital stay for her newborn. With your generous contributions, we provided her with \$100 for gas and assisted in securing \$150 for temporary housing in Dayton, allowing her to remain close to her baby. Witnessing her transformation from uncertainty about keeping her child to developing a deep bond with her unborn baby was truly a blessing from God.
- 2) We encountered another mother whose husband had been laid off, resulting in significant financial difficulties for their family. Additionally, she has celiac disease, which limits her food options, making it challenging to find suitable items at the food pantry. In response, we were able to provide her family with \$125 worth of groceries.
- 3) We recently supported a mother who was contemplating abortion due to fears of not having anyone to celebrate the arrival of her baby. By addressing her concerns, we were able to organize a baby shower that provided her with the emotional support she needed. Your generous donation enabled us to gift her a pack-and-play, a nursing pillow, a postpartum care box, size one diapers, a box of wipes, and a car seat, totaling \$215. While the baby shower itself brought this mother-to-be joy, the most significant impact came from the sense of community and belief in her journey to motherhood. Your support made a meaningful difference in her life.
- 4) We recently assisted a family who had just returned home from the NICU and was struggling with the Enfamil formula shortage. They reached out to us, and we were able to extend our support beyond our local community. One of our staff members has family in Tennessee, and after contacting them, we discovered that the formula was available on their shelves. As a result, we successfully procured the formula for the family at a cost of \$80.00.
- 5) We assisted a young mother facing complications who lacked the funds for gas to reach the hospital. We provided her with a \$30 gas card, enabling her to attend her appointment, during which she underwent an emergency cesarean section. Both she and her baby are now healthy and thriving.

The last of our pay-it-forward money consisted of approximately \$400.00. These funds were given to a Darke County family that was overwhelmed with unexpected expenses. This family of six was experiencing a lot of medical and dental bills for their four children. While struggling to make ends meet, the parents worried about Christmas presents for their little ones. Because of God's love through the St. John congregation, they will be able to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus with their children in the traditional way. These parents are so thankful for our kindness.

We are so blessed to be part of this wonderful church family. Thank you so much for everyone's generous donations that keep this program moving forward each year. God bless!

Love,

Dave and Terri Watts

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MEMORIES 2024 | Sharing Christ's Light



Thank you for being part of our mission this Advent Season and throughout 2024 at St. John. May God's light continue to shine upon us and shine through us as we follow His call in 2025.

