



# MESSENGER

*St. John's Lutheran*

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819

June 2019

What a wonderful evening we had welcoming the community to enjoy oodles of noodles with chicken, salad, biscuits and an impressive display of desserts. An event like our annual Chicken Noodle Dinner takes months of planning, noodle making, and volunteerism.

Pastor Robyn addressed the gathering, thanking them for supporting Helping Hands Food Bank and announcing that this was our 50<sup>th</sup> Chicken Noodle Dinner! That is a lot of noodles.

The evening was a great success. Ida, Sue and Pastor were able to visit Helping Hands to learn about their operation and to present them with a check for \$2,000. They are grateful for our partnership.

Thank you to everyone who made this act of benevolence for our community possible.





## Pastor's Pen- You are cordially invited...

**“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”**  
**Ephesians 4:2**

In honor of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be celebrating love in a unique way when we offer a group wedding vow renewal. The vow renewal event takes place at 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Just thinking about the many, many couples who were married in one of our two sanctuaries is a thrilling thought. Just imagining how many couples will join us to renew their marital covenants is equally thrilling.

In the words of the late Rev. Carol Ruth Knox, *“marriage is, among other things, the decision never to disappoint someone. It is the election of a profoundly respected partner to be the keeper of one’s character. Marriage is of exalted value to oneself because of one’s pact with another person. It’s truly prizing something and taking the risk of trying with all one’s strength not to mess it up! Marriage keeps us from squandering ourselves on petty things.”*

Marriage isn’t always a walk in the park. Some days it’s important to remember that on that day you first exchanged vows, you were advancing your relationship from commitment to covenant. Instead of it only being between you and your spouse, God was now the anchor of your marriage. Our St. John’s married couples provide a daily witness to what it means to live one’s marriage covenants in good and in challenging times, sharing their faith in Christ with their children, the congregation, and the community at large.

For some of our couples, decades may have passed. How wonderful to love deeply enough to stand before God, family, and church community to declare, “Yes, I love and choose you again!” Alleluia.

Thanks to a wonderful suggestion, we will also include and honor our widows and widowers in the ceremony. We will ask them to be present to have their love, memories, and impact be acknowledged and blessed anew. I have no doubt the spirits of deceased husbands and wives will be felt among us. It’s going to be a wonderful day.

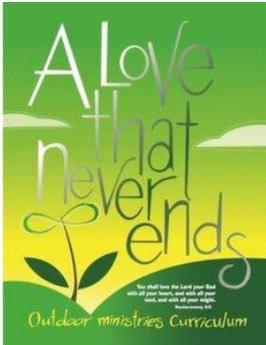
We’ll have church in the morning, then finish setting up for the ceremony and the lunch reception. Mary Wilson is pulling together the volunteers for the reception portion. Lunch will be a carry-in.

Will you be renewing *your* vows?

In Love,

*Pastor Robyn*





## **A LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS PEACE CAMP - JULY 8-12, 6:00 -8:15 P.M.**

Invite your grandchildren, friends and neighbors to have fun while practicing skills that contribute to a world where everyone is safe, loved and able to realize their unique God's given potential! Signups for kids 5-13 are on the St. John's website. We also need a few more helpers. Would you be available some or all the evenings to help sign kids in and out, lead them to stations, play games, do crafts or take pictures? There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

## **PASTOR ROBYN INVITED TO THE AL HUDA MOSQUE TO BREAK THE RAMADAN FAST AT AN IFTAR DINNER.**

It was a wonderful evening to join with Rabbis, Pastors, Imams and community leaders to breakfast (Iftar) with our Muslim neighbors. During the entire month of **Ramadan**, Muslims are obligated to fast every day from dawn to sunset. Each table was invited to talk about our faith and how we imagine a better world, even talking about what gifts/skills we might bring to that world.

The food was fantastic, catered in by the Yaffa Market and Grill of Dayton and Miamisburg.

A Muslim man at my table thanked all of the Christians present saying that our support in times of uncertainty and xenophobia means so much. He said that America had been very good to his family.

Ramadan ends on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. If you meet a Muslim neighbor at the store or around town, a customary greeting during Ramadan would be "Ramadan Kareem" which means "have a generous Ramadan." When it's not Ramadan the greeting is



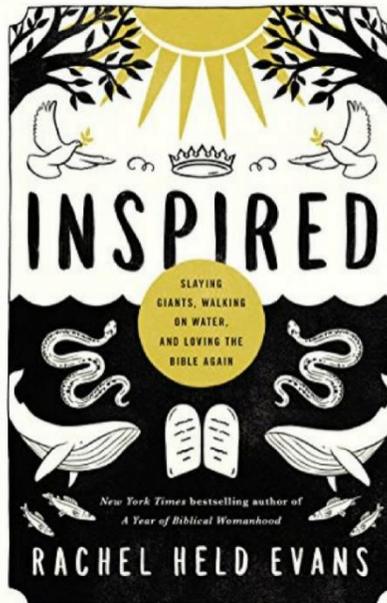
"As-Salaam-Alaikum" (ahh-lay-koom) which means "Peace be unto you." Such greetings and acknowledgement are very appreciated.



## ST. JOHN'S BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH STARTS READING RACHEL HELD EVAN'S BOOK "INSPIRED"

There is still time to join our once a month bible study brunch! Next up is the late Rachel Held Evan's book "*Inspired*." And even if you cannot join us, please consider reading this book.

In the author's own words, "Perhaps more than any other book I've written, "*Inspired*" is intended to be read, wrestled with, discussed, debated, and creatively engaged with in the context of community. And that's precisely because the Bible invites us to do the same. Contrary to what you may have heard in church or Sunday school along the way, the Bible does not always provide clear, straightforward answers to difficult questions, but rather relies on story and song, letters and laws, poetry and proverb to spark among God's people the questions, ideas, and actions that bring them closer to truth and to one another." New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans takes readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present.



Drawing upon recent scholarship and literary analysis, Evans creatively retells our favorite Bible stories, explaining their contexts and possible interpretations, and then connects these ancient stories to our present-day ones. Using her well-honed literary instincts and experience in both evangelical and mainline Protestant traditions, Evans discovers a way of understanding that avoids noncommittal liberalism on one hand and strident literalism on the other.

What I love about the ministry of Jesus is that he identified the poor as blessed and the rich as needy...and then he went and ministered to them both. This, I think, is the difference between charity and justice. Justice means moving beyond the dichotomy between those who need and those who supply and confronting the frightening and beautiful reality that we desperately need one another.

Rachel Held Evans

[www.STOREMYPIC.COM](http://www.STOREMYPIC.COM)

Readers are invited to fall in love with Scripture all over again without checking their intellect—or their imaginations—at the door.

Bible Study Brunch typically gathers the first Sunday of the month. Due to Pastor Robyn's vacation, we'll skip June. **Our next gathering will be after worship on July 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please read the introduction and first chapter. Study guides are available online at

[www.rachelheldevans.com/inspired](http://www.rachelheldevans.com/inspired)



# Special Congregational Meeting

**JOIN US JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE**

Our building trustees and council now have bids on three items related to our building; the roof leak, the parking lot, and the restoration of the steeple. Per our constitution, the congregation votes whenever we need to spend 3% or more of our budget on an expense. Please stay after service on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a short meeting that will help us prioritize and plan for the continued stewardship of our St. John's campus.

## COMMUNITY PICNIC



**SAVE THE DATE, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> OUR BICENTENNIAL PICNIC**



The official anniversary of St. John's is Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a special picnic to commemorate and celebrate the day. Invite your family and neighbors too. Mayor Dick Church (pictured left), a former member of St. John's, is preparing a special proclamation for the day. We'll have activities for the kids, a special meal and more. Our picnic committee is planning activities and weather contingencies. Pastor is planning a short dedication for the future, involving our children and youth. There will be more details to follow.

### **SUMMER TEMPLE TALKS BEGIN JUNE 16TH**

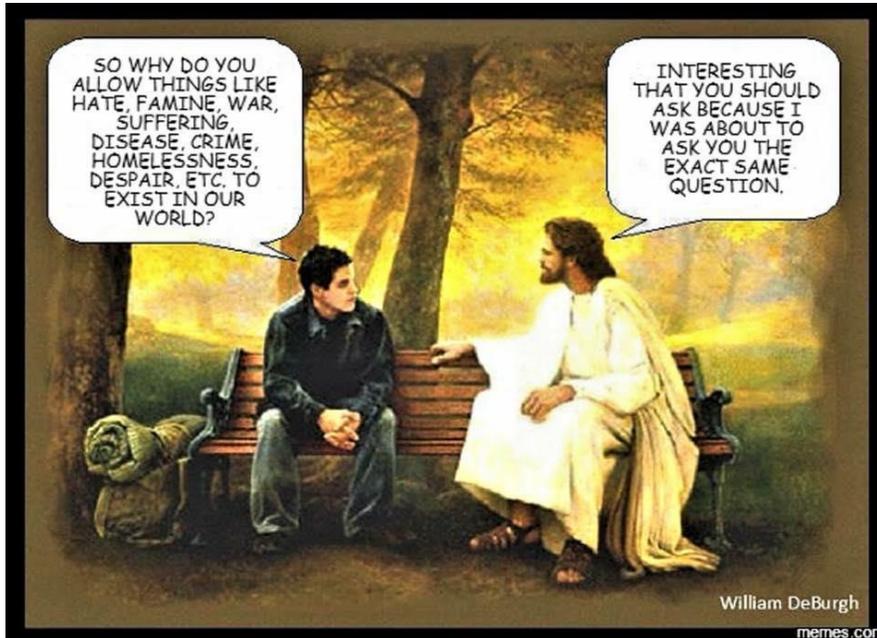
Remember to sign up in the narthex to share your memories of St. John's. We know many of you have either grown up here or spent your entire adult lives at St. John's. Youth are also welcome to share favorite memories about why their church family is special in their lives.



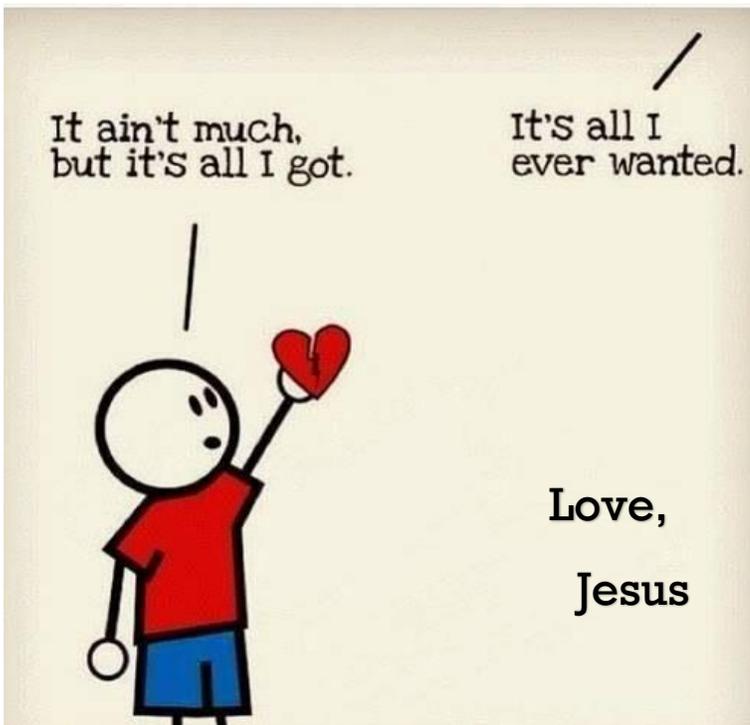
## IMPORTANT REMINDER

At our recent council meeting when we reviewed our month to date financial reports, we decided to bring something to your attention. Once per year we pay the bill for our property insurance. That annual invoice, paid in April, is \$4,562. Generally, St. John's is financially healthy. However, we are tracking behind our projections (-\$3,800 prorated through the first four months of 2019.) We know that vacations and dips in attendance come with summer. Please remember that our church's bills do not take a vacation. If you are in a position to increase your giving or to ensure that your payment of tithing

doesn't take a vacation when you do, leadership will be very grateful. Thank you.



## A STEWARDSHIP STORY FOR THE AGES



Once upon a time, a poor village got news that their King was coming for a visit. They were delighted and nervous. What could they possibly give to their sovereign that would be a worthy tribute? Suddenly they remembered that their village was known for their excellent homemade wines. Each family agreed that they could contribute one cup of their best wine, which when combined would be the perfect gift. The day came and the Major proudly poured a glass for the visiting King. To everyone's horror the glass was filled with water and not wine. Turns out each family had been certain that someone else would contribute, allowing them to go unnoticed if they held back.

**Budget Report for April 2019**

Balance beginning of April:		(\$1,504.72)
Income Towards Budget for April:	\$	7,651.16
<b>Expenses Against Budget for April:</b>		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$6,017.83	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$898.99	
Property Insurance	\$4,562.00	
Utilities	\$778.99	
Committees	\$228.91	
		<b>\$12,736.72</b>
<b>Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(5,085.56)</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Balance end of April:</b>		<b>(\$6,590.28)</b>

Notes:

Description of categories:

**Outreach:** Benevolence, special benevolence.

**Staff:** Pastor's compensation, mileage, continuing education, and benefits; staff salaries and FICA; workers' compensation premiums.

**Facility Upkeep/Administration:** Maintenance/repair and office expenses.

**Committees:** Discipleship, Evangelism, Learning, Stewardship, Worship & Music

**Utilities:** Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- June 9  
Sally Habib
- June 11  
Karen Settle
- June 17  
John Boyd
- June 18  
Pastor Robyn
- June 22  
Matthew Page
- June 23  
Nancy Andrews
- June 30  
Luke Helter  
Everett Morris

**Congregational Contacts**

Robyn Provis                      Pastor    513-633-6038

**Officers**

Ceryl Page	*President/Discipleship & WELCA Liaison	<b>*Executive Committee</b> 937-602-7952
David Helter	*Vice President	937-694-4321
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Barb Hoffman	*Council Recording Secretary	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198

**Organizations, Boards and Staff**

Karen Doyle	Church Secretary/Messenger Editor	937-866-3780
Tom Hoffman	Board of Trustees Chairman	937-859-8871/937-654-1218
Ceryl Page	Discipleship Committee Chairman	937-602-7952
Ceryl Page	Personnel Committee Chairman	937-602-7952
Brook Nauta	Learning Committee Chair	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Ida Geary	WELCA President	937-626-7765
Doug McCabe	Organist	937-866-8669
Nancy McCabe	Choir Director	937-866-8669
Brook Nauta	Children's Choir	513-217-0564/937-367-1473

**Christian Education**

Robin Skelding	Sunday School Superintendent	937-748-5405
Barb Hoffman	Pre-k through 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta & Kim Holtzman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade through 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Robin Skelding	High School	937-748-5405

**Ministry Contacts**

Nancy McCabe	Prayer Chain	937-866-8669
Diane Naylor	Son-Rise Breakfast @ First Lutheran	937-748-2137



Jim and Tammy Denman  
June 25



*St. John's Lutheran*

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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Web: [www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org)  
Email: [secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org)

## SAVE THE DATES

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 2, 11:30 a.m.

### Lively Lutherans

Saturday, June 15, 11:30 a.m., Bravo's

### SonRise Breakfast

Sunday, June 16, 6:00 a.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran in Dayton

### Council Meeting

Sunday, June 23, 11:15 a.m.

### Vow Renewal and Reception

Sunday, June 23, 1:00 p.m.

### June Acolyte's

June 2	Jesse Ñauta Amy Ñauta
June 9	Aiden Ring Brody Lamb
June 16	Melanie Ñauta Emma Holtzman
June 23	Aiden Larsen Annalise Larsen
June 30	Jesse Ñauta Amy Ñauta

### June Altar Guild

Pat McGraw