



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

August 2019

Biking – From Seattle, WA to Portland, OR!

Long Time St John's member Brian Kent recently recounted his experience preparing for and riding the 2019 Seattle-to-Portland (STP) organized bike ride. Brian's oldest son Stephen Kent lives and works in Seattle, and bikes to work round trip (21 miles) every day. For the last 6 years, Stephen has ridden the STP, and last August he asked his Dad to ride with him in July 2019. Having had open heart surgery in March 2017, Brian knew it was going to be a conditioning challenge but agreed to do it. Brian bought a new lightweight bike, and started riding, about 300 miles last fall. On March 18th, he began his spring training



Way to go
Brian and
Stephen!
Congrats!



with a 20 mile ride. Riding 3-4 times a week, between March 18th and July 5th, Brian cycled 1,899 miles on Ohio trails to prepare! On 13-14 July, after flying out to Seattle, Brian and Stephen rode the 209 mile-2 day STP ride together as reunited father and son! Brian said it was a moving experience, and he was very emotional at the finish line. "I had faith God would help me make it, and Stephen had faith in me as well. That made all the difference"

Brian said later! "Truly, it was an experience of a lifetime, and one I would repeat in a heartbeat!" Brian credits his successful ride to the hours of training in all sorts of cold and rainy weather. "Without the training, this would not have been possible".

STP 2020 anyone?



Pastor's Pen- Just Be a Good Human

¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:10

The heat wave is behind us and today was a good day to have a good day. I could feel it in the air. Then I saw a T-shirt with the words "**Be a Good Human**" on it and I smiled. It also made me wonder if it could be that simple and elegant. So, I set out for Kenwood Mall to run some errands. Quite spontaneously I smiled at random people. They smiled back! Then I struck up conversations with shop clerks and other shoppers, giving sincere compliments, and asking questions. I met some of the nicest people. In the beginning I was channeling my mother who talked regularly to strangers. Then I remembered the t-shirt. People seemed eager to have someone want to know them, to take time for them. It really is true that everyone has a story, especially when you ask them something based on your interest in the conversation. I asked Amy, the clerk at Yankee Candles, "So how *did you happen to go* from 20 years in AVON corporate management to here?" In Amy's case, she needed to dial back her stress due to a diagnosis of Lupus, a chronic and at times very debilitating condition. The store wasn't busy and we talked for 20 minutes. I totally enjoyed getting to know her.



All of the conversations today reminded me of our VBS lessons on * "shalom." In shalom (or peace) we seek to bring wholeness and completeness to a person, thing, or situation. It's so much more than the absence of conflict. The goal is to leave people better than you found them. It really doesn't have to be anything huge. **We just have to be good humans.** And isn't that what Jesus did and taught? In every encounter he embodied bringing shalom to everyone he met. People were transformed in his presence. They still are.

When today began I hadn't expected to become philosophical about simply being friendly. Our world needs less heads down, face in our phones, and more direct eye contact and smiles. I smiled at an elderly Korean War veteran. He beamed back. I learned a long time ago that the secret to being relational is to be more **INTERESTED than INTERESTING**. Showing someone you are interested is also transformative.

St. John's is such a friendly place. You are naturals at sharing Christ's love with others. Sometimes I wish that after church we would go to the fellowship hall weekly, just to talk and find out new things about each other. In fact, that is my friendly challenge to all of you this month. Because many of your relationships go back years, let's try asking a friend or relative, "What's something I don't know about you that might make me smile?" I'd love to know how it turns out.

I don't have to tell you to be good humans. You already are.

Love you. Mean it. Peace, out.

Pastor Robyn



Thank you to all the volunteers who trimmed, weeded, sprayed and mulched the Lord's Glen. It's beautiful!

And check out the new low maintenance landscaping at our front door. It looks great.



We are Christian disciples serving the world while receiving, rejoicing, and relaying God's grace!



VBS Peace Camp!



Thank you to all who participated and who led Peace Camp. The children learned the full meaning of both shalom and peace—including how to have peace in yourself, how to bring peace to God's creation, to our city and to our world. Ask them to tell you about it. We bet they'd share. Do YOU know the full meaning of shalom? *



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Bicentennial Celebration Honors the History of our Faithful and Fun-loving Congregation



Mayor's proclamation, bingo, our history display, the bounce house and kids' activities and the always present food buffet.





Pictured above are some of the picnic volunteers who had to get into the bounce house themselves. (Left to right-Mary Wilson, Sara Bell, Tonya McKown, Robin Skelding and Barb Hoffman)

At right our fabulous grill masters, Brian Kent and Jim Denman.



Welcome New Members, Allen Jackson and Jim Denman !

On Sunday, July 21, we celebrated the rite of receiving new members. It is always a joy to receive new brothers and sisters in Christ. When you see Jim and Allen, please give them a hug and welcome them.



Dr. Allen G. Jackson, Ph.D. was raised in New Jersey. In his own words, "I have lived in Ohio since the late fifties. Married for almost 55 years, cut short by my wife's passing. I am an alumnus of Ohio State, UD, and University of Cincinnati. Currently I am an Instructor in the Mechanical Engineering Dept. at WSU. Before that I was a contract researcher in materials at Wright Patterson for almost 40 years and consultant for a few more. In addition to technical interests, my fun pursuits are photography of mountains, flowers, the moon, and family. On occasion I write poetry and observations of nature. I am active in Masonry and AMORC and am interested in non-scientific views of life, who we are and how we interact with the Creator for positive effects on others. I have two married children and three grandchildren, who, happily for me, live nearby.

Jim Denman, has been a delightful fixture around St. John's for about a decade. He serves wherever he is needed, most recently helping with our VBS Peace Camp and frequently as a lay assistant. He is a veteran (a former Marine) and is married to Tammy Denman. Jim retired from the Huffy Corporation after forty years, adding another ten as a consultant. Between them, Tammy and Jim have a blended family with five sons, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Jim is often on the go so if the photo at right looks familiar, it was taken by Linda Kent when he was grill master for our bicentennial picnic.



Photo Directory: It's time for St. John's create a new photo directory to include all our families and individual members! Photography will take place August 13 or 14th at the church. Signups are open now. Go to our website and click on the link.

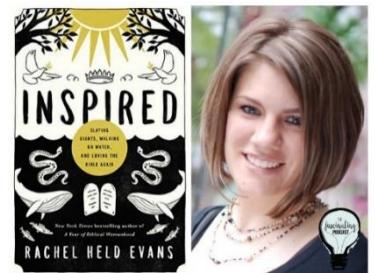
What to expect: A professional photography session with no session fees. You will view your images immediately after your session to make your selections **You will receive:** One FREE 8X10 standard print and church directory. \$30 to spend at Shutterfly.com with any Lifetouch photography purchase.



Fun details: Well behaved pets are welcome. Multi-generational photo sessions are encouraged. You can have generational family groups in one image and separate families in others. Lifetouch invites people to bring meaningful items you would like included in your image. (I.e. holding a photo of great-great grandparents, sports equipment, musical instrument, etc.) If you or your family is not available on either of our two photo session days, we can arrange for you to be photographed at a different church location on a separate day.

BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME

Our next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday August 4th after worship. Please read the second chapter of Rachel Held Evan's book "Inspired" before our gathering. Bring a breakfast or lunch item to share if you can. You can also download a free copy of the study guide from her website at www.rachelheldevans.com/inspired. Pastor Robyn's daughter Melissa will be in town from California and will join us.



LIVELY LUTHERANS

The Lively Lutherans will meet on Saturday, August 17th at The Carillon Brewing Company at 11:30 am. The Lively Lutherans group is open to all members. We enjoy a monthly luncheon with good food and fellowship and an occasional special outing. Please contact Ida Geary (937-626-765) if you have any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMMA MAE HOLTZMAN ON YOUR BLUE-RIBBON BUNNY

Please say congratulations to Emma Mae, daughter of Bruce and Kim! She entered her prize bunnies into the Montgomery County Fair, winning a blue ribbon for "Oreo." She also won a ribbon for her other bunny, "Precious." Emma Mae loves her animal friends!



THANK YOU ST JACOB LUTHERAN AND PASTOR HOUT

Thank you for your support and for coming to the party. We'll be at yours in 2020.



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
470 S. Gebhart Church Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342
Phone: 937-866-3780
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org
Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

SAVE THE DATES

Bible Study Brunch

Sunday, August 4, 11:15 a.m. in fellowship hall

WELCA

Monday, August 5, 6:30 p.m., at Suzie Page's home

LifeTouch Photo Directory

Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14

Lively Lutherans

Saturday, August 17, 11:30 a.m., The Carillon Brewing Company

SonRise Breakfast

Sunday, August 18, 6:00 a.m., 1st Lutheran in Dayton

Council Meeting

Sunday, August 18, 11:00 a.m.

AUGUST ACOLYTE'S

August 4	Jesse Ñauta Amy Ñauta
August 11	Melanie Ñauta Emma Holtzman
August 18	Aiden Larsen Annalise Larsen
August 25	Aiden Ring Brody Lamb

AUGUST ALTAR GUILD

Kim Holtzman