



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819 November 2020

Pastor's Pen....

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

November is a month of liturgical transition. It is the last month in the church year which ends on Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd. Thus, November's scriptures focus on the end times and the end of our earthly lives. It can tend to be a gloomy month and also a weather transition from the brilliant colors of fall to the bare branches of winter.

This November promises to be especially filled with uncertainty and anxiety, as the numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to rise as the weather forces us to be indoors. Rather than deciding what kind of dish you will contribute to the Thanksgiving feast, this year families will have to decide if it is even safe to gather for a holiday that holds such meaning in our lives and in our history.

With this backdrop of fear, we need to hear St. Paul's words inviting us to encourage and build up each other with renewed commitment to making sure everyone is getting through these trying times in good emotional health. As everything from worship to offices appear to be stripped to the bare essentials, we can reflect on the abundance of God as a counterbalance to the grief we are feeling over the loss of close human contact that many of us experience.

We start November with All Saints Day when we remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant and celebrate what they have brought to our lives. As we share Holy Communion on that day and every Sunday, we are reminded that the Lord's Supper connects us to all the living, but also those who have gone before us and those faithful yet to come.

We end November with the beginning of Advent on November 29th. The cycle of expectant hope and waiting that starts the church year begins again. What is present throughout is Jesus, the source of all hope, and given the way things are, hope is essential to keep us going.

May you find hope in the coming days and trust in Jesus to be present with you!

Serving our Lord with you,

Pastor Joan

President's Chapel Mediations

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Oct 23, 2020

By the time this column is published, Hallow'ed Eve (the day before the Feast of all Saints) should be behind us all. I hope the children in your lives had something akin to a normal Halloween experience, even in these restricted times.

I wanted to take this short opportunity to lay out what the next few months looks like for our Congregation. First, we are carefully watching the Montgomery County COVID numbers and hope we don't need to move into Purple. If we do, it means we're back to Zoom Worship Services as long as the purple persists. So far our congregants have been very diligent and fortunate without any church cases, and we hope in earnest to keep it that way. So being optimistic, we'll be transitioning this month from the season of Pentecost to Advent, as we march towards the end of the Calendar year and Christmas.

Before all that, though, there are things we need to do as a Congregation. First, our Financial Management Committee will be in contact with the various committees to assess next year's budget needs. We'll examine our "must have" expenses (utilities, pastor, staff) and our growth expenses (community outreach, synod outreach) and put together a responsible and challenging budget for 2021. Once council looks at and approves this, the congregation will vote on it in late January 2021. Second, we'll be examining which Council positions open up, and recruit to replace members rotating off. If you may be interested in joining Council (all our meetings are virtual) please let me know. Third, Council will begin the process of setting up a "Call" committee to assess our Congregation's desires regarding our next Pastor and starting the process of looking for a suitable candidate.

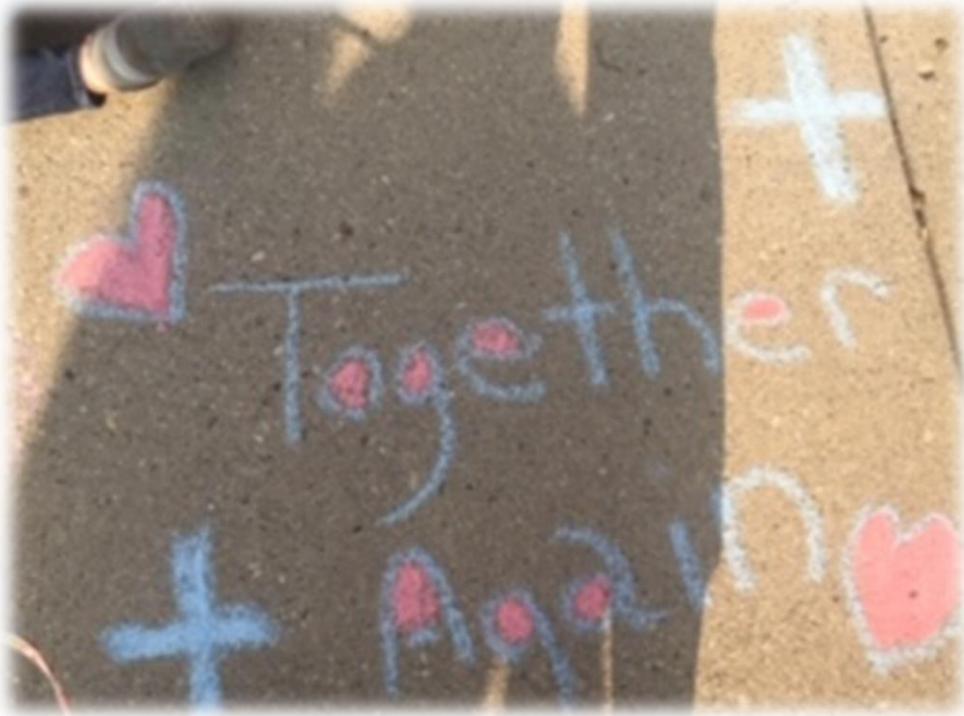
As for our services, we are all very burdened by the lack of singing. As we move into the last 2 months, we are going to try to add soloists (singing from the cry room or upper room) and some instrumentalists. Also, we've researched the current science thinking of "humming" and think this will be ok if we keep our masks on and continue to separate by families. We'll especially try this over Christmas if not earlier.

Lastly – The Christmas forest. After reading your feedback (thanks to all who provided comments) we are going to adopt 1 family as usual **and** add additional ornaments that target helping hands. Some "helping hands" ornaments will have set amounts, others you take will allow you to write in what you want to donate. For those that select these options, just take the ornament and include a check made out to St. Johns and indicate it is for helping hands in the normal. Linda will write them a single check summing all the donations into one check. Note we are going to get the family gifts EARLY this year, so please make sure your gift selections are back at church not later than **Sunday December 13th!**

That's it. My mailbox is always open (president@stjohnsmiamisburg.org) if you have questions or comments. Look out for your neighbors and in their eyes. Show them you care, even at 6 feet!

In Christ's Love
Brian

Sunday School... Together Again



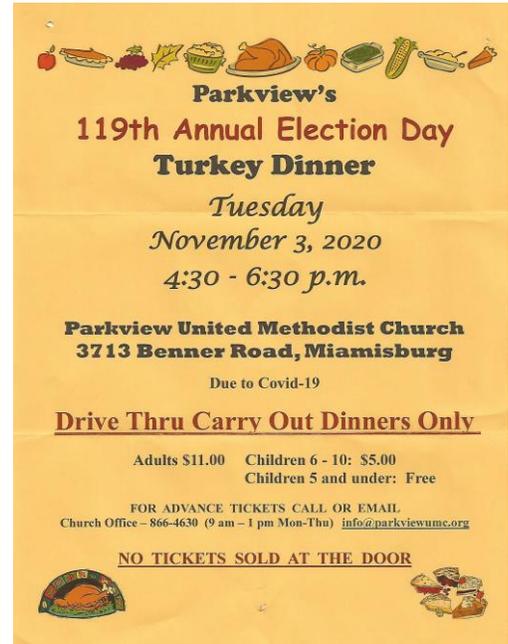


GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 3RD

St. John's is a polling location so there will be a lot of traffic in both the building and parking lot. Please be especially cautious if you will be on the property on Tuesday from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

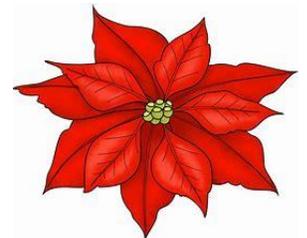
Please Note:

- Due to the people traffic expected on Election Day, Pastor Joan will not be in the office on Tuesday, she can be contacted via her cell at 724-954-6717.
- The office will also be closed Election Day and re-open on Wednesday, Nov. 4th.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Orders for your Christmas Poinsettias will start on November 22nd and must be turned into the church by Sunday, December 13th. Look for the order forms (red) which will be included in Sunday's bulletin and place in offering plate or call the church office, 937-866-3780 to place your order. Poinsettias will decorate the church on Christmas Eve and may be taken home following the services. Donations may also be made to Jeremiah's Letter.



The office will be closed Monday, November 21st thru Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to come and help.

Happy Home Recipe *(taken from the Kitchen Keepsakes cookbook)*

To 3 cups of **Love** and 2 cups of **Understanding**, and 4 teaspoons of **Courtesy**, 2 teaspoons each of **Thoughtfulness** and **Helpfulness**.

Sift together thoroughly, then stir in an equal amount of **Work** and **Play**. Add 3 teaspoons of **Responsibility**. Season to taste with **Study** and **Culture**, then fold in a generous amount of **Worship**.

Place in a pan, well-greased with **Security** and lined with **Respect** for personality, sprinkle lightly with a **Sense Of Humor**. Allow to set in a n atmosphere of **Democratic Planning** and **Mutual Sharing**.

Bake in a moderate oven. When well done, remove and top with a thick coating of **Christian Teaching**.

Serve on a platter of **Friendliness**, garnished with **Smiles**. Make a place for **Christ** at the head of the table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited for Sunday school participants to be together again! For the time being, Sunday school will be taking place only on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Depending on the weather, we will begin each morning in the Lord's Glen or the Old Sanctuary.

RIDES TO CHURCH

If you would be interested in giving someone a ride to church or in need of a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please contact Karen in the office. She will put your name & number on a list, and when someone needs a ride it can be arranged.

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

The newsletter is available electronically. Signing up on the website is easy - just go to the About Us tab, click on newsletter than scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up.

Your home copy of the Messenger will be in full color ... and ... you will be saving the church the cost of postage to mail it if you missed picking up your printed copy on the first Sunday of each month.

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM SERVICE

To view St. John's Sunday morning service, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423179864?pwd=ZUdPaU41Z0hQMfVGN2dSQW5HK3p2UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 2317 9864
Passcode: 688988



Budget Report for September 2020

Balance beginning of September:		\$6,723.41
Income Towards Budget for September:	\$	5,019.55
Expenses Against Budget for September:		
Outreach	\$0.00	
Staff	\$3,804.68	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,033.04	
Utilities	\$392.76	
Committees	\$265.12	
		\$5,495.60
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$	(476.05)
Year-to-Date Balance end of September:		\$6,247.36

Description of categories:

Outreach: Benevolence, special benevolence.

Staff: Pastor's pay and expenses, staff salaries and benefits, FICA, worker's comp.

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

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

Utilities: Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- November 2
Aubrey Knight
- November 4
Emma Holtzman
- November 8
Bruce Holtzman
- November 9
Fernando Ñauta
- November 11
Suzie Page
- November 20
Steven Page
- November 22
Brooklyn Mikesell
- November 29
Cindy Kemper
Hannah Settle

Congregational Contacts

Pastor Joan Armstrong Interim Pastor 724-954-6717

Council Members

Brian Kent	*President	937-885-3529/937-572-3025
David Heltter	*Vice President	937-694-4321
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Cathy Zimmer	*Secretary	937-212-9283
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198
Bruce Holtzman		937-603-9198
Don Pabst		937-470-2404

***Executive Committee**

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
Cheryl Page	Discipleship Committee Chairman	937-602-7952
Cheryl Page	Personnel Committee Chairman	937-602-7952
Brook Ñauta	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 Ñauta	Children's Choir	513-217-0564/937-367-1473

Christian Education

Barb Hoffman	Pre-k through 1 st Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Ñauta	2 nd Grade through 6 th Grade	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Robin Skelding	Confirmation	937-748-5405

Ministry Contacts

Nancy McCabe	Prayer Chain	937-866-8669
Kim Naylor	Son-Rise Breakfast @ First Lutheran	937-903-8638



- November 6
David & Julie Heltter
- November 8
Mike & Sara Bell
- November 13
Terry & Tonya McKown
- November 14
Steve & Renee Lamb
- November 17
Austin & Molly Brewer



St. John's Lutheran

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

Nancy Andrews sent these photos from church creek behind outside altar and cross on altar back parking lot. Such pretty colors, thanks Nancy for sharing.

