



*St. John's Lutheran*

# MESSENGER

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

May 2021

## Pastor's Page....

*As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:  
to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that your children may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.* From the Baptism Liturgy in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Two sets of parents in our congregation took on these responsibilities for their children years ago, and on the Feast of Pentecost on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the children will assume these responsibilities for themselves. Melanie Ñauta and Aiden Larson will be affirming their baptisms on that morning by both claiming God's promises of grace for themselves and accepting responsibility for their own lives of faith.

Spring brings renewal and new growth, and this year it also brings the promise of the end of fear and isolation of the long pandemic season. With the aid of effective vaccines, the deadly reach of COVID-19 has been lessened in our country. Slowly and carefully, the normal service and fellowship activities here at St. John's are resuming.

With this new found sense of freedom, it is good for us to remember what it is that God calls us to be doing now that we can be out in the world a bit more. We are called to be together in community in order to hear the word, receive the sacraments and encourage each other. Some may still find it difficult to join us in person and that is certainly understandable. Their continued isolation calls us to reach out to them in Christian love and contact, as being a Christian is not intended to be a solitary endeavor.

We see in this list of responsibilities the need for us to continue to study the scriptures and to build up our prayer lives. We carry out all of these responsibilities **so that** others come to trust in God, **so that** we can proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and all of creation and work for justice and peace.

Proclaim. Care. Work. These are all action words. God calls us to take action and now things are opening up in our communities to allow us to be the hands and feet of Christ for the sake of our neighbors.

I invite you to be in prayer this coming month about how you are meeting the responsibilities of your faith. Pray that new ideas bubble up about how our congregation can discern the needs of our community and be active in meeting them as a part of our witness to God's great love for us given in the gift of Jesus, the Risen Lord. Please pray for Aiden and Melanie as they take this step forward in their faith journeys.

Serving our Risen Lord with you,

*Pastor Joan*

## President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

May 1st, 2021

### Who is ready to Step up?

As a lifelong Lutheran, no activity seems to bring on more fear and foreboding than **EVANGELISM!** Whenever this term is used amongst polite Lutherans, everybody thinks "Oh my Gosh, I have to go pound on doors and invite people to our church." Where's the nearest foxhole for me to jump into so I'm not "chosen"!

OK, calm down. First of all, we're all "chosen" because of our Faith in Jesus Christ and that he died for each one of us. I know that Brook is collecting favorite bible verses, and here's mine (as a catholic turned Lutheran to boot): Ephesians 2:8 **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.**" . Wow, when I first *comprehended* what this meant, all the guilt complex Old Testament fire and brimstone departed my faith, because I know through grace I am saved. So, we're all chosen, don't worry about that detail.

Second, I'm not asking anyone to pound on doors. Studies have shown pounding on stranger's doors is mostly a counterproductive exercise anyway. The fact is, we all have friends in our work and social circles, and if our faith comes into the conversation, there's your opening to say what a great church we are and to invite someone to visit or join us, even anonymously, online some Sunday. It is our message of faith and forgiveness that makes us so unique in the world, and this is truly "good news".

So, what am I really asking for? Your help, your commitment to help us restore "normalcy" to our congregation's outreach activities. Maybe we plan a Chicken Noodle with carryout only? Or an outdoor ice cream social? All this would comply with even the most strenuous CDC guidance, and still show Miamisburg "we're here and we're out and about". So, I'm looking for a few small groups of folks who might be willing to take on a social, a drive through Chicken Noodle dinner, the "community shred and bread" activity I discussed last week, or help learning with our joint Vacation Bible School with Parkview. One of these should be of interest to you. Can you step up...please?

Our Scout groups and AA groups are meeting right now. It's time for us to get started. As I said when this pandemic started, we cannot allow fear to guide activities. Christianity is a religion of hope, grace, and love, and we need the community to know we're here to serve. If you have some great community activity ideas please shoot me an email ([brian.kent.phd@gmail.com](mailto:brian.kent.phd@gmail.com)) and I'll broach with Council. In the meantime, let's get started. There's a world out there that needs ministering.

Brian Kent, President.

## ROOF LOAN UPDATE



The loan to repair the Fellowship Hall roof is being paid down every month by \$270.75. The roof loan, which started at \$25,377, now has a balance of \$12,768 thanks to some generous donations that helped to pay down the balance faster. The 10-year loan will now be paid off in August 2025, and any additional donations towards the loan will help to pay it off even sooner and also reduce the amount of interest paid. Please mark "Roof Loan" on your contribution if you wish to donate to this important cause.

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## FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Do you have a favorite verse from the Bible? We are putting together a video for Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday. Take a short video of yourself saying a favorite verse and send to [brooknauta@gmail.com](mailto:brooknauta@gmail.com), or tell Brook or Melanie any Sunday after worship and we will video it for you. We hope everyone will share a verse. Videos must be in by May 16th. Thank you.

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## GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the altar area will be decorated with **red geraniums** from Kitch's Greenhouse. The cost of each 4" pot is \$5.00 and is payable at the time of the order. Order will go thru May 16<sup>th</sup>. You may take them home after the service, or you can choose to leave them to be planted around the church. An order form is included in the bulletin or you can pick up a form (red) in the narthex, there's a place on the form where dedications can be made.

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## HONORING THE GRADUATES

It will soon be **GRADUATION TIME again**. Please submit your graduation information to the church office by email ([secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org)) or drop the information in the offering plate. Please include graduate's name, degree (high school, college, post-graduate) and their school info. There is a form included in today's bulletin that you can use. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, we will publish our own **Class of 2021 booklet** so please submit your graduate's information by May 23<sup>rd</sup> so they will be included! St. John's is proud of all our graduates and want to lift them up in our prayers.

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## WHERE DID LWR QUILTS AND KITS GO IN 2020?

In 2020 you reached... **616,210 neighbors** in need in **23 countries** with **\$11.1 million** worth of quilts, care kits and masks.

- 264,585 quilts
- 12,960 blankets
- 174,055 school kits
- 71,900 personal care kits
- 12,300 fabric kits
- 52,860 baby care kits
- 40,750 face masks



## CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>



The children gathered before church on Easter morning for an Easter Egg Hunt with a surprise visitor, the Easter Bunny.

So thankful the weather cooperated for this event.









**Budget Report for March 2021**

<b>Income for March 2021:</b>		<b>\$ 7,344.08</b>
<b>Expenses for March 2021:</b>		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$3,868.30	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$3,549.21	
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75	
Utilities	\$570.78	
Committees	\$199.99	
		<b>\$8,709.03</b>
<b>March Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>		<b>\$ (1,364.95)</b>

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.  
**Roof Loan:** Monthly payment for fellowship hall roof repair loan from endowment.  
**Committees:** Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.  
**Utilities:** Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- May 1  
    Dezirae Deboe
- May 3  
    Delinda Pierce
- May 7  
    Steve Knick
- May 14  
    Jean Roberts
- May 20  
    Seth Helter
- May 21  
    Kimberly Holtzman
- May 22  
    Debra Humphrey
- May 28  
    Logan McKown  
    Paul Settle
- May 29  
    Ursula Morris
- May 31  
    Cheryl Page

**Congregational Contacts**

Pastor Joan Armstrong      Interim Pastor      724-954-6717

<b>Council Members</b>		<b>*Executive Committee</b>
Brian Kent	*President	937-885-3529/937-572-3025
Don Pabst	*Vice President	937-470-2404
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
Garry Andrews		937-848-2090

**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
Brook Nauta	Learning Committee Chair	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Ida Geary	WELCA President	937-626-7765
Doug McCabe	Organist	937-866-8669
Brook Nauta	Children's Choir	513-217-0564/937-367-1473

**Christian Education**

Barb Hoffman	Pre-k through 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade through 6 <sup>th</sup> 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



- May 21  
    Bruce & Kimberly Holtzman



*St. John's Lutheran*

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

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

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## WELCOME BACK WELCA

WELCA will meet on Monday, May 3rd a 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There are lots of things to discuss since it's been so long since the last meeting. All women are encouraged to attend. There will be no food served, due to COVID restrictions.

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## OUTSIDE WORK DAY

On Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, weather permitting, the Daughters of the Revolution will be working on cleaning up the cemetery and restoring some of the headstones.

Anyone who wants to volunteer to come that day to assist with the cemetery cleanup or do some outside work around the church, plan on being here around 9:00 a.m.