



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819 September 2019

Here is the Church, here is the Steeple. Open the Doors and See all the People.



It's been truly wonderful to see construction crews and painters working on our beautiful buildings and watching our historic steeple restored to its youthful beauty. In times when we hear about the decline of the church, it's pretty awesome to see scaffolding and truck lifts making improvements. All in all such work communicates that St. John's is planning for a future! New landscaping, fresh paint, roof repairs, and steeple restoration is a testament to the fact that God isn't done with us. We are ready for our third act!

Our bicentennial activities have been inspiring and

enjoyable. But what is next? Expect that over the next many months we'll provide some opportunities for us to dream together, listening to the Spirit so that we can discern where to place our energy and our resources. Your council would love to hear your ideas for how you think we can continue to gather, go, and grow for God.



A shout out to our trustees for assessing and arranging these repairs.



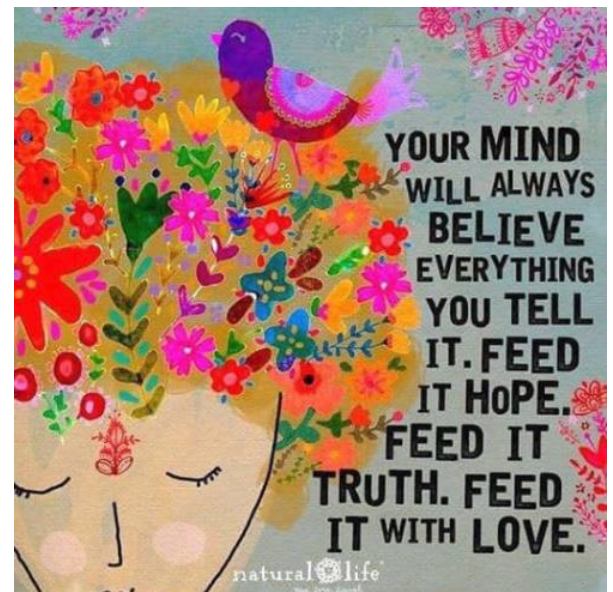
Pastor's Pen- What Are You Feeding Your Worries?

*Can any one of you by **worrying** add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. (Matthew 6:27-28)*

I recently purchased a book originally intended for our children. The book is titled, "**What to Do When You WORRY Too Much: A Kid's Guide to Overcoming Anxiety.**" But as I began to read, I smiled thinking that there are many adults who could benefit from its wisdom-myself included. We live in a time when anxiety is part of everyday life. Can you relate? My mother was an expert worrier and she was proud of it! She concluded that because most of what she worried about never ended up happening, that clearly meant that worrying contributed to the positive outcome. Her favorite joke was to ask, "Did you hear about the guy standing on a busy street corner snapping his fingers in the air? A passerby asked him, "What are you doing?" "Chasing away elephants of course!" was his reply. So when the onlooker asserted that there were no elephants in the city, the man answered proudly, "See, it works!" That too was my mother's logic about the art of worrying. It works.

Back to the worry book. It opens with an illustration about growing tomatoes. When we plant a tomato seed, cover it with rich dark soil, water it, and give it plenty of sunlight, pretty soon a green shoot will appear and, if we tend it well, more tomatoes will appear until we have so many tomatoes we'll need to go to the library for a tomato cookbook. Apparently worries are like tomatoes. We make our worries grow simply by paying attention to them. Then pretty soon, what started as a tiny seed of worry has become a huge pile of problems.

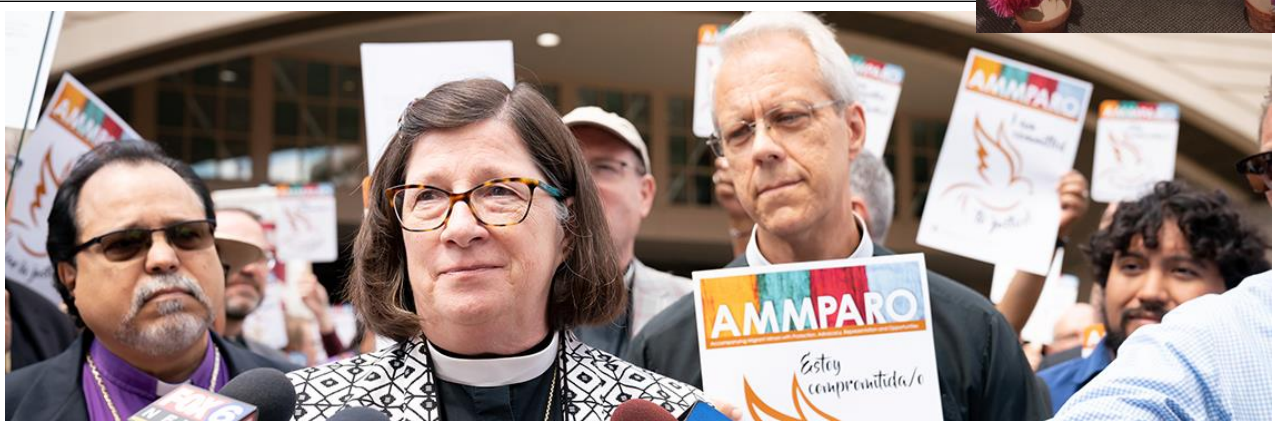
The bible includes many references to the dangers of excess worry, as well as the excellent advice that we should "cast our fears on the Lord." Matthew's gospel reminds us that worrying doesn't add a single hour to our lives. In other words, it doesn't help. Our best hope is to focus on what can help. Focus on Christ. Focus on prayer. Focus on things that can transform the thing causing us the anxiety.



There's a Native American proverb that tells us that inside every person there are two sides, a good and kind side, and a darker more wolf like side, and that the two are always struggling for dominance. When the question is asked about which side will win, the answer is humbling and simple. The one you feed is the one that wins. I pray that whenever we expend energy on excess worry, we remember we are not alone. Take a moment to pray, then stop and evaluate whether the thing you're worrying about is going to improve because of your worry. Then feed your mind hope, truth and love.

In Hope,

Pastor Robyn



ELCA Becomes First Denomination to Declare Itself a Sanctuary Body

In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.

In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.

Through the ELCA's AMMPARO (Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy, we continue this work. Talking points, articles, videos and resources are housed on the elca.org website so this church can have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members in their context to discern future action and direction. Becoming a sanctuary denomination was voted on and passed by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee.

Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. It will look different for everyone, but welcoming people is not a political issue for us – it is a matter of faith.



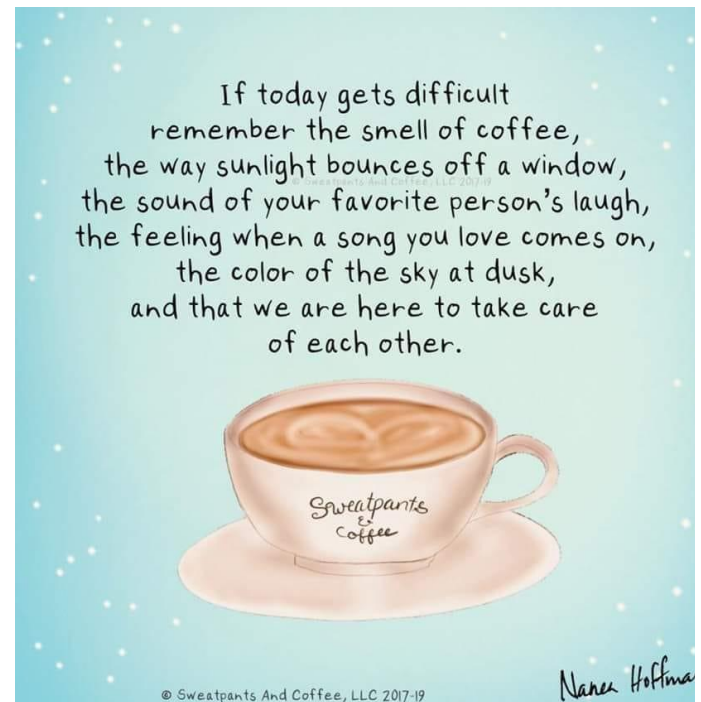
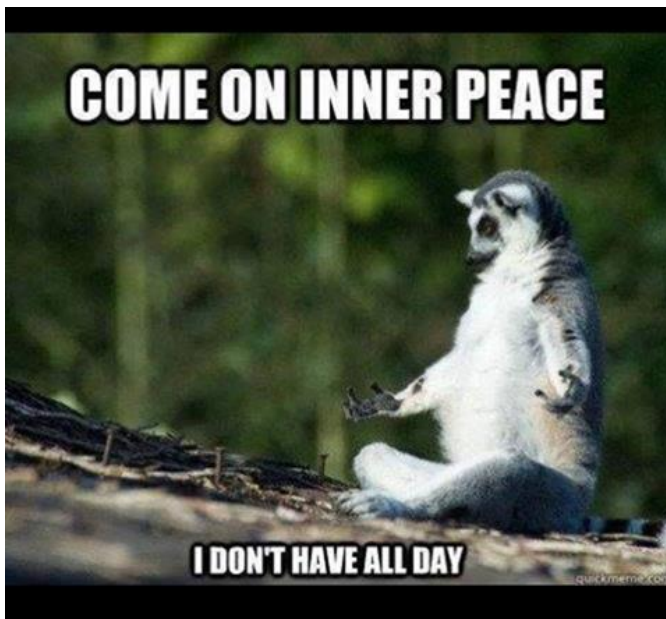
RALLY DAY 2019 - CONNECT!

Let's keep our connections strong in our 200th year! Rally Day activities will take place at 9:00 a.m. on September 15th in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are invited to participate in some fun activities and tasty snacks.

The family of Wendell Kemper would like to thank the congregation for their love, support, cards and prayers throughout Wendell's illness and transition into eternal life.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Pastor Robyn, Doug and Nancy McCabe and WELCA.

With Christian Love, Cindy & family.



The recipe below was submitted by Suzanne Page from the "Our Collection of Recipes", published by St. John's Lutheran Church Women, in 1966.

CHEESE CAKE

30 graham crackers (rolled)
1 stick margarine again (melted)
¼ cup sugar

Combine these three ingredients and make a shell, saving a few to sprinkle over the top, if desired.

Combine and let cool:

1 cup boiling water
1 small box lemon jello
2 tbsp. orange jello

Whip 1 ½ cups Wilson Milk (heavy whipping cream) very stiff.

In other bowl, cream one 8 oz. pkg. Phil. Cream Cheese and one cup of sugar. Then add the Jello mixture. Stir and add a No. 2 can of drained, crushed pineapple. Fold into whipped milk and pour into shell and sprinkle crumbs over top. Chill in refrigerator. Make in a loaf pan.



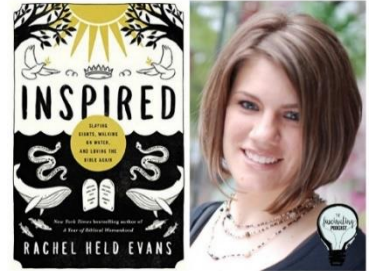
NEW DATE & BREAD PRICES - MARIE HUFFMAN'S

WELCA will be going to Marie Huffman's on **Monday, September 16th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please plan on being at the church at 6:00 p.m. promptly to carpool. Cost for the meal is a donation of \$18.00. Orders are also being taken for cinnamon bread, iced bread is **\$5.25** and plain bread is **\$5.00**.

BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME

Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday October 6th after worship. Please read the third 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



LIVELY LUTHERANS

The Lively Lutherans will meet on Saturday, September 21st at Olive Garden 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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SCHOOLS SUPPLIES

The following items were collected during the month of July and distributed to Miamisburg School Students on August 1st.

11 Thin Markers	75 Glue Sticks
24 Regular Markers	6 Regular Glue
22 Highlighters	8 Rounded Scissors
40 24-pack crayons	27 Pointed Scissors
23 Color Pencils	38 Wide-Ruled Notebooks (70 Sheets)
238 Pencils	31 College-Ruled Notebooks (70 Sheets)
150 Black Pens	6 Wide-Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
6 Red Pens	29 College-ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
10 Blue Pens	4 Wide-ruled 3-subject Notebooks
19 Pencil Bags	50 Folders
11 Pencil Boxes	12 1-inch Binders
2 Pencil Sharpeners	24 packs of Index Cards
31 Big Pink Erasers	18 Rulers

Budget Report for July 2019

Balance beginning of July:	(\$7,183.20)
Income Towards Budget for July:	\$ 6,491.67
Expenses Against Budget for July:	
Outreach	\$250.00
Staff	\$5,569.93
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,830.31
Parking Lot Resealing	\$4,230.00
Utilities	\$313.06
Committees	\$152.16
	\$12,345.46
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$ (5,853.79)
Year-to-Date Balance end of July:	(\$13,036.99)

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.



September 6
Olivia Knight
September 9
Cathy Zimmer
September 17
Garry Andrews
Glenn Bennett
September 19
Judy Kuemmel
September 23
Tim Baerenwald
September 24
Barb Hoffman
September 27
Bernice Bowell
September 30
Sara Bell

Congregational Contacts

Robyn Provis Pastor 513-633-6038

Officers

Cheryl Page *President/Discipleship & WELCA Liaison
David Helter *Vice President
Linda Kent *Church Treasurer
Barb Hoffman *Council Recording Secretary
Judy Kuemmel *Financial Secretary

*Executive Committee

937-602-7952
937-694-4321
937-885-3529/937-572-7815
937-859-8871/937-231-6341
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
Cheryl Page Discipleship Committee Chairman 937-602-7952
Cheryl 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 1st Grade 937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta & Kim Holtzman 2nd Grade through 6th Grade 513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Robin Skelding High School 937-748-5405

Ministry Contacts

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



September 4
Charlie & Gail Braun
September 13
Bobby & Beth Knight
September 18
Brian & Linda Kent



St. John's Lutheran

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Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org
Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

SAVE THE DATES

SonRise Breakfast

Sunday, September 15, 6:00 a.m., 1st Lutheran in Dayton

WELCA

Monday, September 16, 6:00 p.m., going to Marie Huffman's

Lively Lutherans

Saturday, September 21, 11:30 a.m., Olive Garden

Council Meeting

Sunday, September 23, after church at Pastor Robyn's house

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE'S

September 1 Aiden Ring

September 8 Brody Lamb

September 15 Jesse Ñauta
Amy Ñauta

September 22 Aiden Larsen
Annalise Larsen

September 29 Melanie Ñauta
Emma Holtzman

SEPTEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Marilyn Boyd