



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

And Heaven and Nature Sing

"Joy to the World," a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song"—a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

Advent is a good time to consider that rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we can discover that the depths of joy can be found in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.



Advent 1, December 1st: "Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy"

Advent 2, December 8th: "Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy"

Advent 3, December 15th: "Make Blessings Known: Creation's Joy" (Children's Program)

Advent 4, December 22nd: "Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy"

Christmas Eve, December 24th: "The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy"

Sunday after Christmas, December 29th: "Wonders of His Love: Compassionate Joy"

Please invite family and friends to our Christmas Eve service, when our special guest will be classical harpist Veronika Stanichar. Veronika discovered the harp while attending a recital at the age of four. When she declared she would like harp lessons at intermission, the harpist told her that when she was a little older, old enough to read, she would take her on as a student. Three months and two-hundred flash cards later, just a *little* bit older and a *much* better reader, Veronika started lessons just after her fifth birthday. Now thirteen, she studies both classical and Irish traditional harp music and has qualified four times to compete at the **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann**, the biggest traditional Irish Music festival in the world.



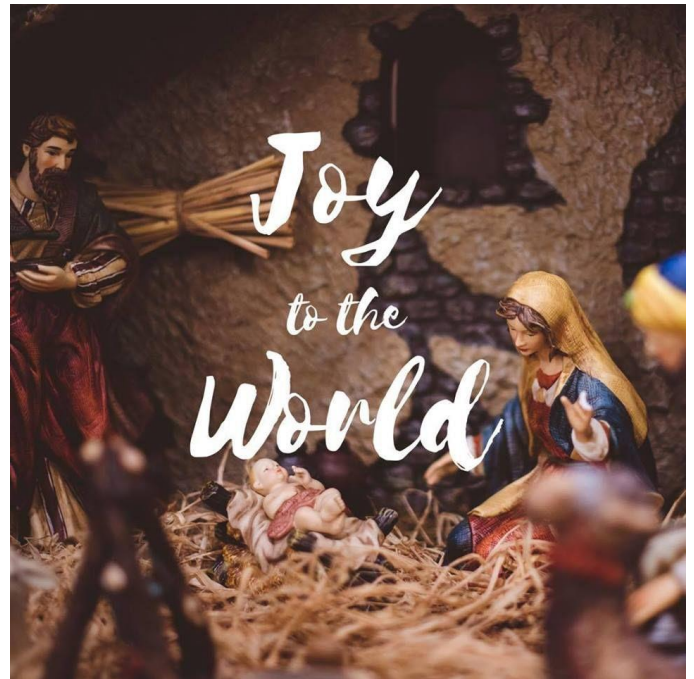


Pastor's Pen-“Believing is Seeing”

There's a story told about a businessman who owned and operated a busy hot dog wagon. Everyone loved his food and his cheerful personality. But when his adult children cautioned that there was a recession coming, they suggested he should make plans to close. Reluctantly, the father did just that. He anticipated a downturn and by closing, ensured one. It is a definite truism that we receive what we believe. Have you found that to be true?

As we enter the season of anticipating the birth of the Christ child, we are invited again to be alert and watchful for the wonders of the season. It's ironic that the busiest season of the year is the season we're asked to be pay attention. I heard someone say that summer would have been a better time for Christmas!

If ever Christmas can seem ill timed, even out of order, here is what a friend recently wrote., *“Even at that first Christmas, expectation of a great warrior riding in on a majestic horse **instead** arrives as a helpless baby in the most meager of circumstances, in a barn, in a mess, not even around other humans but barn animals! Joseph wrestled with the idea that things were out of order. They were supposed to be married and then one day later experience pregnancy and birth. **Instead** the baby, the essence of the miracle entered the picture first.”*



We're in good company as we annually settle our spirits to fully welcome the infant into our lives. The Christmas season is the advent of possibility for our lives and for the world. This year I am excited to be centering our advent on the theme of joy. Joy can be present even in despair. It is the grounding reality that all is well in Christ. Jesus, savior of the world, will burst onto the scene in a humble manager and the world will never be the same again. Receive him and believe!

In Grace & Gratitude,

Pastor Robyn



DECEMBER 2019

Curious?

Phone the Church Office
for Details on Any Event!
937-866-3780

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1 Joint Council/Finance and Trustee Meeting 8:30 am Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am <i>Christmas Caroling</i> <i>11:30 am</i> <i>Indian Dance 4:00 pm</i> <i>AA/Al Anon 7:30 pm</i>	2 AA Group 12:00 noon Sewing 9:30 am	3 Sewing 9:30 am	4	5 Girl Scout Leader's Meeting 7:00 pm Health Class AA Group 12:00 noon	6 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	7 Dayton Tamil Academy 11:00 am
8 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Area 56 12:00 noon <i>Indian Dance 4:00 pm</i> <i>AA/Al Anon 7:30 pm</i>	9 AA Group 12:00 noon WELCA Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Sewing 9:30 am Girl Scout Troop #33291 6:00 pm	11	12 Girl Scout Troop #30200 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #35159 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #32399 Meeting 6:30 pm	13 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	14 <i>Christmas Play Practice 9:00 am</i> Lively Lutherans @ Bullwinkle's 11:30 am Dayton Tamil Academy 3:00 pm
15 Sunrise Breakfast 6:00 am Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship/Children's Christmas Program 10:00 am Council Meeting 11:00 am AA/Al Anon Thanksmass Dinner/Meeting 5:30 pm	16 AA Group 12:00 noon	17 Sewing 9:30 am	18 Sewing in Fellowship Hall 9:30 am	19 Learning Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	21
22 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am <i>AA/Al Anon 7:30 pm</i>	23 AA Group 12:00 noon Girl Scout Troop #39996 6:30 pm	24 <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm</i>	25 <i>CHRISTMAS</i> OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	28 Private Member Event 2:00 pm
29 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am <i>AA/Al Anon 7:30 pm</i>	30 OFFICE CLOSED AA Group 12:00 noon Girl Scout Troop #39996 6:30 pm	31 OFFICE CLOSED Sewing 9:30 am	1 <i>JANUARY</i> OFFICE CLOSED	2 Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00 pm	3 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	4 Dayton Tamil Academy 3:00 pm

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

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 9 pm

The community is invited to gather together to welcome the Christ child. Join us as we light candles to spread Christ's light while we sing the timeless carol Silent Night.

We will have guest harpist **Veronika Stanichar**

During the children's time, Veronika will invite them to see what playing the harp feels like.

Cookies and hot cider will be served after the service.



Veronika Stanichar discovered the harp while attending a recital at the age of four. When she declared she would like harp lessons at intermission, the harpist told her that when she was a little older, old enough to read, she would take her on as a student. Three months and two-hundred flash cards later, just a little bit older and a much better reader, Veronika started lessons just after her fifth birthday. Now thirteen, she studies both classical and Irish traditional harp music and has qualified four times to compete at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the biggest traditional Irish Music festival in the world.

St. John's Lutheran Church

470 S. Gebhart Church Rd., Miamisburg

www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org

937-866-3780



Left: Pastor Mike Hout (St Jacob Lutheran), Pastor Robyn, Pastor John Mittermaier (Zion Lutheran) and Mary Ehret, (lay minister from St. Henry Catholic) gathered for Community Thanksgiving Service. The combined church youth and adult choir was glorious. Thank you to all who came and sang. \$400 was raised for Helping Hands Food Bank.



Dan Reed, Ida Geary, Michele Johnson, Karen Settle and Gary Andrews setting up the Christmas Forest.



Left: All Saints Worship included a display of the names of this year's saints. Thank you for Beth Knight for cutting out all the names, letter by letter. It was a beautiful tribute to our saints in light.



Please join us Tuesday, December 24th at 9:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Service.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CAROLING

The date for Christmas Caroling will be Sunday, December 1st. Please invite your friends and family to join in the caroling when we'll bring joy to so many. We will be going to a few nursing and residential homes. We'll practice singing with those gathering before departure. Please contact Nancy Andrews 937-307-1674 for questions.



PRAYER CHAIN TO BE UTILIZED

Please note that in case of weather conditions that require cancelling worship, we will use our prayer chain to contact as many families and individuals as possible. Pastor Robyn will also place a notice on the front of the church website. Check the website if you are unsure. www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org



The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th thru Wednesday January 1st for the Christmas and New Year holidays. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

IT'S TIME FOR THE CHRISTMAS FOREST

Please be sure to select a tag from the trees. Wrapped gifts **must be at church by Sunday, December 15th**. This year you'll find gifts for Miamisburg families, opportunities to donate to the Helping Hands Food Bank and ways to sponsor actual church expenses. Please contact Cheryl Page at 602-7952 for more information.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Orders for your Christmas Poinsettias must be turned into the church by Sunday, December 15th. Look for the order forms 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.



NOODLES There are noodles leftover from the bazaar if you would like to purchase any. They are \$3.00 a bag. See Ida Geary if you are interested.

WHAT IS THE DAYTON WOMEN'S COUNCIL?

The Dayton Women's Council invites a female representative from area Lutheran congregations to gather and become informed about area needs. The speaker this month was from Oasis House, a faith based program here in Dayton that rescues girls from human trafficking or prostitution. The organization operates two safe houses, and multiple longer term housing options for girls to get them on their feet. The speaker explained how girls end up in prostitution – some run away from a bad foster home, and having nowhere to go find themselves vulnerable to men who prey on their situation. She shared a story about a girl born to a mom who is an exotic dancer and a father who was a bartender. When the girl got old enough she was told to start dancing, and it went from there. The girls cannot go to where they are living or get food, until they make enough money. The Oasis House gets to know the girls, and gives them random bags of kindness. They try to earn their trust, and tell them that there is another way, and that they can help them. There are success stories, but these are few, but they keep trying. (The council is supported by Graceworks, the parent company of Bethany Lutheran Village. The group hears monthly speakers as well as makes Christmas presents for the residents of Bethany Lutheran Village)



Peppermint Cookie Canes



2 cups sifted flour
½ cup sugar
¾ tsp. salt
1 cup soft butter or margarine
¼ cup milk

¼ tsp. peppermint extract
1 cup rolled oats
Confectioners' sugar
Red sugar sprinkles

Sift together, flour, sugar and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk and peppermint extract. Add oats, mixing well. Chill. Divide dough into four equal parts, each part into 9 pieces, roll each piece into a 6-inch rope. Shape on ungreased cookie sheet to form a cane. Bake at 375 degrees about 10 minutes. Cool. Frost with thin confectioners' sugar frosting. Before frosting is set, sprinkle with bands of red sugar to form stripes. Makes 3 dozen.

This recipe was submitted by Judy Kuemmel from the "Kitchen Keepsakes from St. John's Family" cookbook that was published in 1998 by the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Blue Star Mothers

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$200.00!

On behalf of our active duty military men and women serving the United States of America and our Veterans, we sincerely thank you.

The Blue Star Mothers of America
Miami Valley – Chapter 3



While Mary was giving birth
to the son of God,
Joseph was having his own problems.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2019



Our new Christmas play, **"What Does Christmas Mean to Ewe"**, is newly written by Pastor Robyn and will be performed by the youth during worship, December 15th.

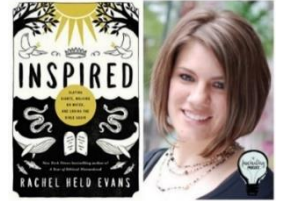
Watch as the nativity animals walk off the stage, pursued by the narrators. It seems the animals aren't sure if humans are taking the birth of the Christ child seriously enough. After all, the animals were present that first Christmas Eve and they saw it all first "hoove," uh, hand. But the children all know what Christmas means to them and they're prepared to set the animals straight.

Maybe Christmas will be saved after all!

Play practice will take place on Saturday December 14th at 9:00 a.m.

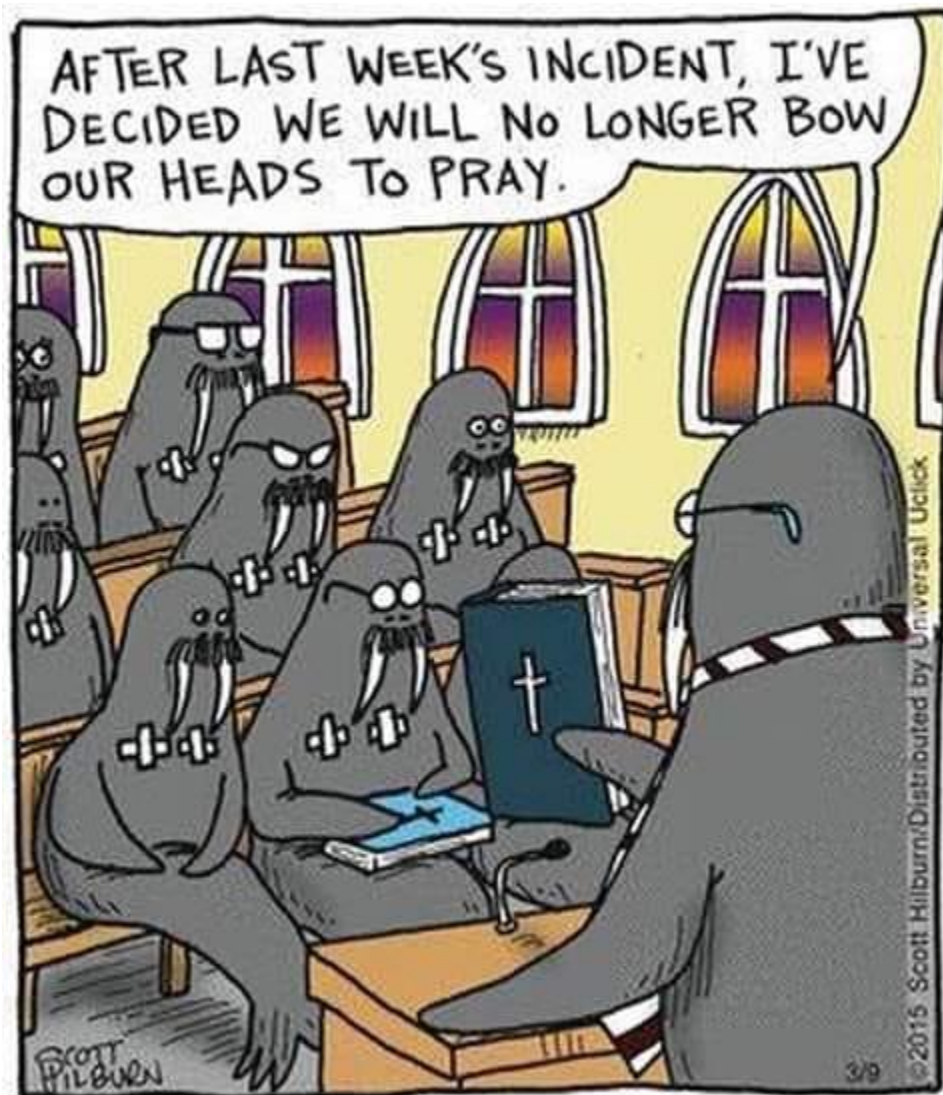
BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME

The next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday **JANUARY 5th** after worship. Please read the forth 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, December 14th at Bullwinkle's at 11:30 a.m. 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.



Budget Report for October 2019

Balance beginning of October:	(\$11,156.61)
Income Towards Budget for October:	\$ 7,430.03
Expenses Against Budget for October:	
Outreach	\$250.00
Staff	\$5,578.94
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$677.75
Utilities	\$664.51
Committees	\$138.00
	\$7,309.20
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$ 120.83
Year-to-Date Balance end of October:	(\$11,035.78)

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



December 1
Eva Mae Cox
Beth Knight
December 4
Ryley Lamb
December 5
Robert Holt
December 11
Mary Wilson
December 13
Jesse Ñauta
December 19
Harley Lamb
Sondy Johnson
December 27
Pat McGraw
December 30
Bailey Smith

Congregational Contacts

Robyn Provis Pastor 513-633-6038

Officers

Cheryl Page	*President/Discipleship & WELCA Liaison	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

***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

Robin Skelding	Sunday School Superintendent	937-748-5405
Barb Hoffman	Pre-k through 1 st Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Ñauta & Kim Holtzman	2 nd Grade through 6 th 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



December 14
David & Cheryl Page
December 18
Gary & Debbie Ball



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

SAVE THE DATES

WELCA

Monday, December 9, 6:00 p.m., at Cheryl Page's home

Lively Lutherans

Saturday, December 14, 11:30 a.m., Bullwinkle's

SonRise Breakfast

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

Children's Program

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.
First communion for Kendall Ring & Annalise Larsen

Council Meeting

Sunday, December 15, after church

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 9:00 p.m.

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25 thru Wednesday, January 1

December ACOLYTE'S

December 1	Aiden Ring
	Brody Lamb
December 8	Jesse Ñauta
	Amy Ñauta
December 15	Aiden Larsen
	Annalise Larsen
December 22	Melanie Ñauta
	Emma Holtzman
December 24	Aiden Ring
	Emma Holtzman
December 29	Jesse Ñauta
	Amy Ñauta

December LAY ASSISTANTS

December 1	Julie Helter
December 8	Brian Kent
December 15	Cheryl Page
December 22	Brian Kent
December 24	Cheryl Page
December 29	Youth

December ALTAR GUILD

Tom and Barb Hoffman