



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

St. Johns to Host the Annual Community Thanksgiving Service, Sunday, Nov. 24

As part of our continuing Bicentennial Celebration, we will be hosting Miamisburg's community Thanksgiving, joining with St. Henry Catholic parish, Trinity Church, Zion Lutheran and St. Jacob Lutheran.

One of the highlights every year is the all church choir. This year we're inviting the children and youth from all five congregations to participate. The adult choir will sing "Full Harvest" and the joint youth/adult choir will sing "A Song of Peace." A practice CD is available for the "Song of Peace."



We invite anyone and everyone who would like to sing to come to the **one rehearsal** that will be held Wednesday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m.

The service itself invites individuals from the participating congregations to take turns reading short bible passages on our gratitude, gratitude for the: Gifts of Creation, the Gifts of Human Relationships, the Gifts of God's Presence, God's Hope of Food and Shelter for All, Community and Lasting Peace. Let Pastor know if you'd like to read. There will be no sermon(s), only Music and the Word.

An offering will be taken and divided between **Miamisburg Helping Hands Food Bank**, and **Bridget's Path**, the organization that provides inpatient care for drug exposed newborns as well as advocacy and non-judgmental support for families.

After the service everyone will be invited upstairs for cookies and coffee. If you are able to bring some cookies it will be much appreciated. Please invite family, friends and neighbors.



Pastor's Pen- Cultivating Gratitude by Playing the "Glad Game"

November can be a mixed bag of emotions for many. Fall is typically well under way and we may even experience our first snow of the season. Not everyone welcomes the snow. I'm usually one of those people.

November is also when we turn our clocks back. (November 3rd as a matter of fact.) The days shorten. We wake up in the dark and get home from work in the dark. Then there is Thanksgiving. Cooking the big meal and sitting down with family is either a favorite or a challenge. Trying to stay out of the weeds when avoiding difficult topics of conversation can be stressful. So far this introduction doesn't sound like it's about gratitude. True enough but hear me out. Holding gratitude in one's heart is a learned practice. And it is worth the effort. Here's an example.

I am not a big fan of winter. I prefer summer. So when I accepted a call to pastor a church in Minnesota, I knew I needed to shift my attitude, otherwise I'd be miserable for what turned out to be the next twelve years. In the past I **endured** winter, waiting for it to be over. But living in Minnesota I discovered that they simply switch sports! In the summer they are out hiking around the lakes, building camp fires, and riding their bikes. But in the winter, they gather in people's homes, concentrating on building relationships. And their sport of choice is hockey. I'm embarrassed to admit that that was revelatory to me. They were always grateful for whatever their reality was in the moment. It didn't take long for me to look forward to winter and to enjoy the other seasons with new eyes.

Gratitude is also a state of the heart as well as a state of mind.

As a child I loved the Disney film "Pollyanna." Part of it was filmed in my home town of Napa, California. The story goes something like this: Orphaned missionary kid with a heart of gold moves to a small town that is essentially ruled by her austere aunt. Pollyanna (played by Hayley Mills), with precocious positivity and determined gladness, changes her aunt – and the town – for the better. She even gives joy back to the fire and brimstone town preacher when she tells him about the 800 happy texts in the bible. She teaches an entire town how to be grateful! Here's one of my favorite dialogues from the film.

Reverend: The happy texts?

Pollyanna: Yes. Like, um, 'Shout for joy,' or, 'Be glad in the Lord.' You know, like that... There are eight hundred happy texts, did you know that?

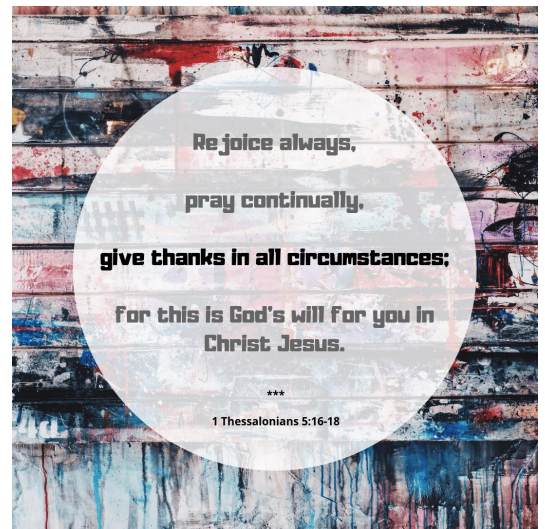
Reverend: No, I didn't know that.

*Pollyanna: And do you know, my father said that **if God took the trouble to tell us eight hundred times to be glad and rejoice, he must have wanted us to do it.***

As we enter the season where we give thanks for our blessings, for our saints in light, and everything in our lives, I pray we grow in our intention and ability to be grateful. I am grateful for you and for our congregation. You make me glad every single day.

In Grace & Gratitude,

Pastor Robyn





Quilt and school supplies that were sent to Lutheran World Relief



Sunday, October 20th, Rowan Lee Nelson Brewer was baptized by Pastor Robyn. Welcome Rowan!



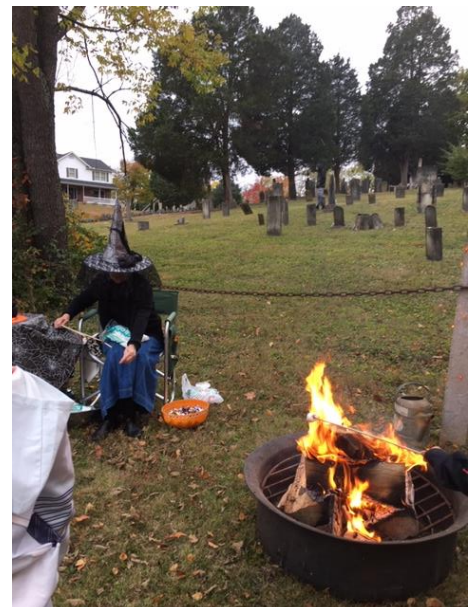
It's Official! Congratulations to Julie Helter on passing the bar exam! Julie graduated this year from the University of Dayton Law School.



Annaliese Larsen and Kendall Ring learning about the meaning of Jesus' Passover Seder Meal during their First Communion Class.



Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 25th and the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 26th.



NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

St. John's is a polling location so here 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.

IT'S TIME FOR THE CHRISTMAS FOREST

The Christmas Forest will be put up before Thanksgiving. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

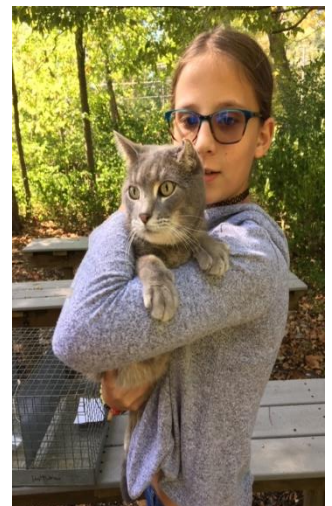
Orders for your Christmas Poinsettias will start on November 24th and must be turned into the church by Sunday, December 15th. Look for the order forms (red) which will be included in Sunday's bulletin and place in offering plate or call the church office, 937-866-3780 to place your order. Poinsettias will decorate the church on Christmas Eve and may be taken home following the services. Donations may also be made to Jeremiah's Letter.



DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON NOVEMBER 3RD

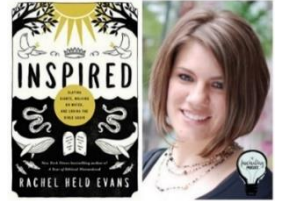
Bring your creatures, great and small, to the
Blessing of the
Animals

Just a few of the sweet dogs, cats and bunnies who received blessings and a "Protect My Pet" medal for their collars.



BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME

The next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday November 3rd after worship. Please read the fourth 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, November 16th at the Stacked Pickle 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.

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.



Watch for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

The office will be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Budget Report for September 2019

Balance beginning of September:		(\$13,201.71)
Income Towards Budget for September:	\$	8,632.91
Expenses Against Budget for September:		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$5,114.48	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$353.13	
Utilities	\$667.70	
Committees	\$202.50	
		\$6,587.81
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$	2,045.10
Year-to-Date Balance end of September:		(\$11,156.61)

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.

NOTE: THANK YOU FOR HELPING US LESSEN OUR DEFICIT FOR 2019. LET'S KEEP IT GOING.

Congregational Contacts

Robyn Provis Pastor 513-633-6038

Officers

Cheryl Page	*President/Discipleship & WELCA Liaison	*Executive Committee 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

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 1 st Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta & 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



- 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



- November 6
David & Julie Helter
- 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

SAVE THE DATES

Bible Study Brunch

Sunday, November 3, after church

WELCA

Monday, November 4, 6:00 p.m., at Church

General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 6:00 a.m.

Lively Lutherans

Saturday, November 16, 11:30 a.m., Stacked Pickle

SonRise Breakfast

Sunday, November 17, 6:00 a.m., 1st Lutheran in Dayton

Council Meeting

Sunday, November 24, after church

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24, 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER ACOLYTE'S

November 3 Aiden Ring
Brody Lamb
November 10 Jesse Ñauta
Amy Ñauta
November 17 Aiden Larsen
Annalise Larsen
November 24 Melanie Ñauta
Emma Holtzman

NOVEMBER LAY ASSISTANTS

November 3 Julie Helter
November 10 Cheryl Page
November 17 Brian Kent
November 24 Cheryl Page

NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Pat McGraw