



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

Be part of our discussions on Stewarding a Vital Future

As the ELCA and St. John's looks to the future, we aspire to have a congregation whose faith shines in our relationships with God, each other and our community. Vital congregations can experience heightened worship, prayer, study of scripture and sustainable financial support as we discern the presence and will of God in our midst. How can St. John's become more vital? If you'd like to be part of a three session discussion group that will help us arrive at new ways of being good stewards of our past and future, please let Pastor know or sign up in the narthex.

1 STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- a. Leadership articulates how God shows up in and through the congregation and its people
- b. The congregation has a clear understanding of God's larger mission and members know their purpose in this time and place
- c. The congregation can articulate that purpose and create a plan for implementation

3 A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

- a. The congregation opens its doors to welcome the stranger and goes beyond its doors to share the love of Jesus Christ
- b. Creates and nurtures partnerships within the community to make a positive impact on the strength of the community

2 NURTURES RELATIONSHIPS

- a. Relationships among leadership, pastor(s) and staff, and members create a loving community with good communication
- b. People work together respectfully through successes and challenges
- c. There is a sense of ownership and belonging that drives the commitment and engagement in the mission of the church



Pastor's Pen-“Can Jesus be my Valentine?”

I hope so.

As we approach the St. Valentine's holiday, have you ever thought of the bible as a love letter from God/Jesus? Within its pages are countless references to a love beyond our human comprehension; a love that can transform our lives when we realize that the point of religion isn't to hold humanity down, but to encourage us to FLY!

And some days, when it feels like life has thrown us up against the rocks, the sacred words found on the pages of scripture are the purest of antidotes. Psalm 27 is one of those texts. It tells us that God will set us “high upon the rock” to keep us safe. What a beautiful metaphor!

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? **THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE; OF WHOM THEN SHALL I BE AFRAID?** For in the day of trouble **he shall keep me safe in his shelter;** HE SHALL HIDE ME IN THE SECRECY OF HIS DWELLING AND **SET ME HIGH UPON A ROCK.**

There is a professor at Luther Seminary, Rolf Jacobson, who lives life in the security of God's love. He speaks passionately of how Psalm 27 got him through the injury that rendered him a double amputee. He repeated the words over and over again, *“The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid.”* To Rolf scripture is a touchstone and an anchor. To understand scripture is one thing, but to rely on it is another! We can (and should) hold God's words close to our heart.



Are there bible verses that you memorize? Memorizing scripture was something many of us grew up with. We don't “require” it anymore, not because it isn't a wonderful practice, but because people who have learning disabilities can find it emotionally trying.

For the rest of us, it can be an effective way to secure the love of Jesus deep in our souls, and once embedded they will be the first words that flow forth when we're stressed or low. What are your favorite bible verses? One of mine is Jeremiah 17:8. It speaks to me when I'm tempted to give up...

“They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

In this new decade and year, I want to encourage you to pick a verse that brings you comfort; a verse that communicates God's extravagant love. Memorize it if you can and repeat it often. May it bring peace to your soul and may it be God's valentine for your heart.

In Grace & Gratitude,

Pastor Robyn



St. John's Lutheran

Curious?

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

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am 2019 Annual Meeting 11:15 am AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	27 AA Group 12:00 noon Girl Scout Troop #39996 6:30 pm	28 Sewing 9:30 am Girl Scout Troop #33291 6:00 pm	29	30	31 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	1 FEBRUARY Dayton Tamil Academy 3:00 pm
2 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible Study Brunch 11:15 am AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	3 AA Group 12:00 noon WELCA Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm	4 Sewing 9:30 am	5	6 Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00 pm	7 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	8 Dayton Tamil Academy 11:00 am
9 Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Area 56 12:00 noon AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	10 AA Group 12:00 noon Girl Scout Troop #39996 6:30 pm	11 Sewing 9:30 am Girl Scout Troop #33291 6:00 pm	12	13 Girl Scout Troop #30200 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #35159 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #32399 Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	15 Lively Lutherans @ CJ Chan 11:30 am Dayton Tamil Academy 11:00 am
16 SonRise Breakfast 6:00 am Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Council Meeting 11:00 am AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	17 AA Group 12:00 noon	18 Sewing 9:30 am	19 Sewing in Fellowship Hall 9:30 am	20 Learning Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	21 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	22 Area 56 9:00 am Synod Race Relations "Seeing Race through Faith" @ St. John's Downtown Dayton 10:00am Dayton Tamil Academy 3:00 pm
23 Confirmation Class/ Pre-Lent Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	24 AA Group 12:00 noon Girl Scout Troop #39996 6:30 pm	25 Sewing 9:30 am Girl Scout Troop #33291 6:00 pm	26 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	27 Girl Scout Troop #30200 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #35159 Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #32399 Meeting 6:30 pm	28 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	29 Dayton Tamil Academy 3:00 pm
1 MARCH Confirmation Class/ Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Bible Study Brunch 11:15 am AA/AI Anon 7:30 pm	2 AA Group 12:00 noon WELCA Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Sewing 9:30 am	4 Lent Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm	5 Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00 pm	6 Health Class 9:30 am AA Group 12:00 noon	7 Dayton Tamil Academy 11:00 am



Dan Reed and Mai Fenwick are received as members of St. John's. Welcome back Dan and Welcome Mai!



Above: the adults line up to receive baptismal blessings from our children. At left: Harpist Veronika Stanichar brought us beautiful music Christmas Eve. Below: Meet some of the residents at the Sycamore high-rise who attended Advent worship led by Pastor Robyn.



LENT 2020- ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 – Preparing the Canvas:

Our Lenten journey begins with a powerful ritual of letting go in order to prepare the canvas upon which God will create a work of art.

Week 1, March 4 — The Parade: Risking Reputation, Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

Week 2, March 11— The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger, as Jesus overturns tables in the Temple, we are

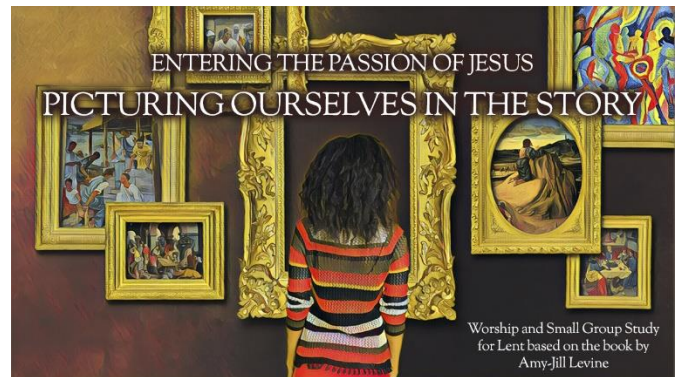
called to examine whether "business as usual" in our own houses of worship is keeping us from deeper ministry.

Week 3, March 18 — The Teaching: Risking Challenge, Jesus' teachings present a challenge to religious authorities and their interpretations of the law, and show us new wisdom for our lives today.

Week 4, March 25 — The First Dinner: Risking Rejection, a woman anoints Jesus with nard in an extravagant act of devotion, prompting a heated debate about expressions of love and community values.

Week 5, April 1 — The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends, Jesus' radical act sets a new example of love and sacrifice in relationship.

Week 6, Holy Week Palm Sunday, April 5 to Easter, April 12 – Details TBD



THANK YOU TO THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING COUNCILS

On Sunday, January 26, our Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the sanctuary. We bid farewell to our current council, (*see below for who is staying on*), Current Officers Elected to One Year Terms: Barb Hoffman, Recording Secretary; Linda Kent, Treasurer; Judy Kuemmel, Financial Secretary; and Council Members Elected to Two Year Terms: Cheryl Page, President; David Helter, Vice President; Don Pabst and Mary Wilson. Many thanks to Cheryl Page who has served on council for 6 years as President and Barb Hoffman who has served as Recording Secretary for sixteen years.



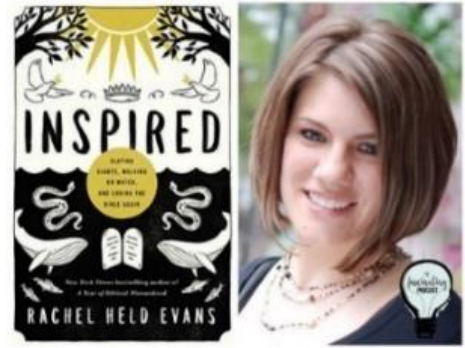
Elected as our new council is **Officers to be elected for One Year Terms:** , Cathy Zimmer, Recording Secretary; Linda Kent, Treasurer; Judy Kuemmel, Financial Secretary, along with the **Council Members to be elected to Two Year Terms:** Don Pabst, Brian Kent, Bruce Holtzman, Luke Helter as our youth member, along with Pastor Robyn. Thank you for your willingness to serve in Christ's name.

The Synod Race Relations Task Force presents “Seeing Race through Faith” at

Saint John's Lutheran Church in Downtown Dayton on February 22 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Dayton Urban Lutheran Allies, and all Dayton Conference churches are invited to attend. This training is designed to aid us in identifying the hidden messages in our faith practices that often perpetuate racism in our church, communities, and world. We look forward to engaging in dialogue with congregational members, rostered ministers, and others in the church interested in exploring how our faith intersects with the racial tensions in God's work. Attendees will engage in dialogue, ask questions, and help one another improve our understanding on race so that we can be better equipped for mission in God's world. Registration details will be sent out shortly. There is a requested contribution of \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. There is a free parking lot behind the church and street parking is free on Saturdays.

BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME

The next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday **FEBRUARY 2nd** after worship. Please read the fifth 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.



In the late author's own words, "If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it?" New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present. Come join the discussion.

LIVELY LUTHERANS

The Lively Lutherans will meet on Saturday, February 15th at CJ Chan, 2747 E. Alex Bell Road, Miami Township, at 11:30 a.m. The Lively Lutherans group is open to all. It's great fun when ten to twenty members of our church family meet monthly at a different restaurant in town. Food, fellowship and a chance to get to know each other in a casual, outside of church location. Even if you've never joined us before, please consider trying it on for size February 15th. For more information please contact Ida Geary (937-626-7765) if you have any questions.



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

After careful review of income trends and future needs, the council presented a small deficit budget that represents the minimum required to sustain our ministry needs. It was designed to be realistic while requiring new revenue opportunities with facility rentals and fundraising. It was unanimously passed the



membership who attended the meeting. Highlighted was the generosity of our members who continue to give at either level or increased amounts. Thank you for your faithfulness. There are many community organizations who St. John's supports and we plan to be around for a long time to continue that support. We also thanked

our current council and elected a new council. (See page 5 for detail). With 2019 being our Bicentennial year, we enjoyed a number of celebrations that included installing our newest pastor, conducting a wedding vow renewal to remember all the couples who have been married at St. John's, a community picnic and worship service where Mayor Dick Church attended and delivered a beautiful city proclamation. The time is now to listen for God's "NEXT." Just as our founders did 200 years ago, we will focus our efforts in the coming years to listen to how God is guiding us forward.

Budget Report for December 2019

Balance beginning of December:		(\$12,702.90)
Income Towards Budget for December:		\$ 11,747.82
Expenses Against Budget for December:		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$5,304.56	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,251.61	
Utilities	\$448.03	
Committees	\$303.24	
		\$7,557.44
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):		\$ 4,190.38
Year-to-Date Balance end of December:		(\$8,512.52)

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.



- February 1
Allen Jackson
- February 3
Priscilla Goldie
Linda Kent
- February 5
Traci Smith
- February 8
Mary Jo Mikesell
- February 9
Tom Hoffman
- February 11
Molly Brewer
- February 12
Joe Wilson
- February 16
Oscar Page
- February 17
Gary Ball
- February 18
Joyce Petticrew
- February 28
Diane Naylor
David Page

Congregational Contacts

Robyn Provis Pastor 513-633-6038

Officers

Brian Kent		*Executive Committee
David Helter		937-885-3529/937-572-3025
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-694-4321
Cathy Zimmer		937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-212-9283
Cheryl Page	Discipleship & WELCA Liaison	937-321-1198
		937-602-7952

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



- February 12
Oscar and Suzie Page



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

SAVE THE DATES

Bible Study Brunch

Sunday, February 2, 11:30 a.m.

Lively Lutherans

Saturday, February 15, 11:30 a.m., CJ Chan's

SonRise Breakfast

Sunday, February 16, 6:00 a.m., 1st Lutheran in Dayton

Pre-Lent Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

February ACOLYTE'S

February 2	Aiden Ring
	Brody Lamb
February 9	Melanie Ñauta
	Emma Holtzman
February 16	Aiden Larsen
	Annalise Larsen
February 23	Jesse Ñauta
	Amy Ñauta

February LAY ASSISTANTS

February 2	Brian Kent
February 9	Julie Helter
February 16	Cheryl Page
February 23	Brian Kent
February 26	Cheryl Page

February ALTAR GUILD

Pat McGraw