



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

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

March 2020

## A Message from Our New Council President, Brian Kent

For some newer members who do not know me well, I want to introduce myself in a unique and personal way. I am a really strong introvert or "I" personality. Until I read the book "Quiet" recently, I didn't fully appreciate the challenges and gifts of being an "I". One of the characteristics is that an "I" must have quiet time alone every day to think, decompress, and keep things in perspective. It helps me *listen, and collaborate better, and accept personal setbacks easier*. My "I" time is spent with music, fine detailed hobby projects, and my never-ending attempts to strengthen my personal faith. Whatever "room" I'm physically in as I think and pray about my faith *is* my chapel, hence the column title.

Last week, your elected council chose me as your 2020 Congregational President. Leading this congregation means balancing humility, anxiety, joy, and frustration, likely starting with our first big challenge. "Who are we, and where are we going?" Now, don't get too worried.... we're at the corner of Maue and Gebhart Church so we're not "lost". The love of God through Jesus Christ is our Compass, so we can always "find our way".

However, what do we want to collectively do *as a congregation* as we live our finite lives in faith among a world whose needs well exceed our time and personal resources? Can we fully define, embrace, and execute a mission that gives us a combination of personal and faith based satisfaction and sheer excitement that will attract others to our Mission's cause?

So, let's start realistically. We do outreach, we help people *right now*. Miamisburg is *already* a better community due to our presence. But like an athlete not fully "in stride", we may not be as *efficient* or *effective* in focusing our mission as we must be. So, the first order of business for Council will be to *tackle* what I believe will help define us – *What is St' John's Mission for greater Miamisburg for the next 3-5 years?* I want you to think and pray about this question, because Council will need your help and consensus. If we want to thrive and compete in a socially aware and active world, we need to get this figured out and then proactively share it with our friends, neighbors, and community colleagues. **(Continued on page 2)**





## Pastor's Pen- Seeing Ourselves in the Story

I love a good book. I love the *good* book. Right now I'm in the middle of both.

Our Lenten study series, "**Entering the Passion of Jesus**," is based on a book of the same name by Amy Jill Levine. Amy is professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. She's a powerful voice of commitment to a **God of love, justice, and peace**.

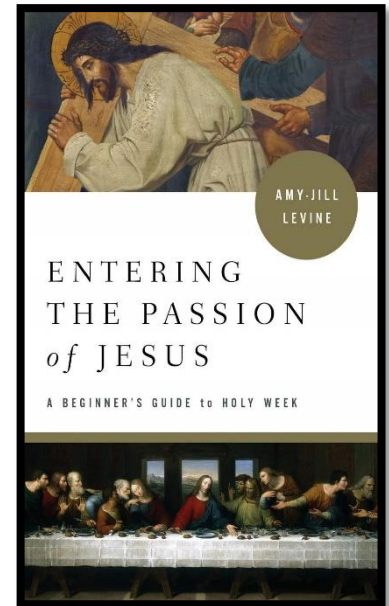
This is not your ordinary Lenten study. We will delve into the last days of Jesus' life, finding new ways to understand and question our own lives through the stories of his trials and choices. The journey will challenge us to examine our consciences which can bring us into closer relationship with others and the world.

I certainly understand the preference to jump straight to the triumph of Easter. We know the horrors of crucifixion and the love that compelled Jesus to be a willing participant in that end. But here's the thing as I see it. This study will be comforting and deeply challenging as we talk about the risks Jesus asks us to take in order to love as he did.

It's tempting however we should not read the biblical text, or understand the Passion narrative, the same way we did when we were children. Lent for grownups is a period of personal atonement which gives us the chance to repair past wrongs that may be holding us back. If we think of atonement as "at-one-ment," we discover a deeper understanding. **At-one-ment** means being reconciled to each other. Our world needs a profound **at-one-ment** between humanity and divinity. If I sound a little fired up about the topic, I am. The Easter story is possible for the world in 2020 if/when we slow down to reflect on and be transformed by what happened on that first Easter. As we look to St. John's next two hundred years, we are invited to think deeply about how to follow Jesus into that future. Please come join the discussions on Wednesday nights to add your voice by putting yourself into the picture.

Easter Blessings to You and Us,

*Pastor Robyn*



**(Continued from front page)** As I think of the greater problems of modern organized churches, and reflect on the huge world need for faith based community solutions, I get excited about the *possibilities of helping*, yet worry about the *fear of falling short*. In the end, you can't win a game if you don't walk into the arena to play. You've elected me your leader, but I view this job as *the coach*. It's not about me as "the leader", it's about "us" as a congregation team. We'll succeed (or not) *as a team*. I'm humbled to be your coach. Let's start by figuring out our first few steps in God's inspired game of Mission. (...to be continued next month) BMK





Pictured here is the annual pancake breakfast and pancake races. It's the launch of Lent and it includes the hiding of the alleluias until Easter. Thank you to the learning committee, along with Tom Hoffman and Bruce Holtzman for their mad pancake cooking skills.



St. John's had representation at three great events in February. 1) The Synod seminar on Effective Church Councils; 2) The Synod's Race Relations seminar on seeing Race through the Lens of Faith; and 3) A learning event "Opening Doors to Immigrants" hosted by Dignity of Dayton.





## LENT 2020- ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS (Wednesday Devotions & Discussion)

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

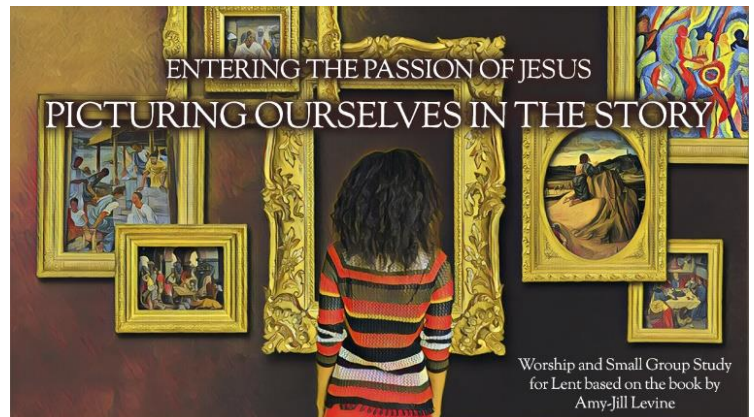
**Week 2, March 11— The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger,** as Jesus overturns tables in the Temple, we are called to examine whether "business as usual" in our own houses of worship is keeping us from deeper ministry.

**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** – See the flier on the next page.



## WELCA MONTHLY MEETING & LINENS SHOWER



### FOR THE CHURCH KITCHEN AND THE ANNUAL GREEN FOOD BUFFET

WELCA will be having a "kitchen linens shower" at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Please bring dish clothes, dish towels and potholders. The meeting will be at Nancy McCabe's home at 6:30. Dinner will include Nancy's take on green everything!



You don't want to miss it!

## EASTER FLOWERS

Orders for Easter Flowers will begin on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, watch the bulletin for the order forms.

As in the past, assorted Mums are \$10.00 each. Hydrangeas are not available this year.



# REJOICE HE IS RISEN

Easter Sunday  
APRIL 12, 10AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 10am,

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt, April 5, 9am

Easter Breakfast, April 12, 9am

[WWW.STJOHNSMIAMISBURG.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSMIAMISBURG.ORG)

470 S. Gebhart Church Road  
Miamisburg, OH 45342



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

DR. ROBYN PROVIS, PASTOR

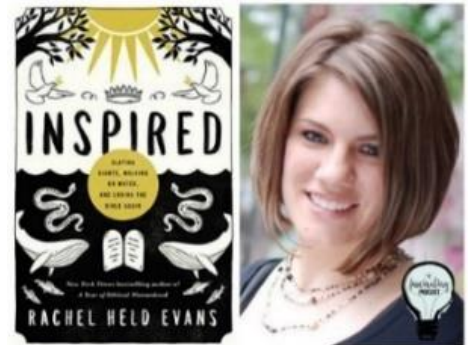
## **BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH - ALL ARE WELCOME**

The next Bible Study brunch will meet on Sunday **March 1** after worship. Please read the 6th 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](http://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, March 21<sup>st</sup> El Rancho Grande 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. For more information please contact Ida Geary (937-626-7765) if you have any questions.

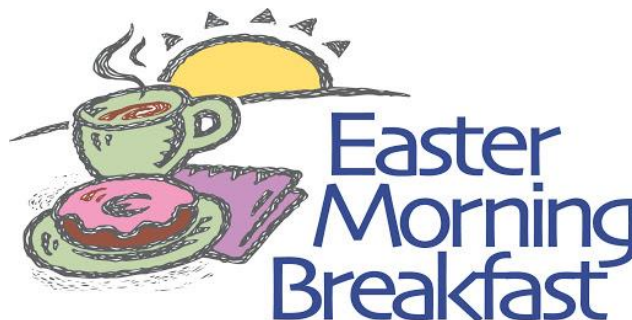


## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 9am on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the Children's Chapel. Donations are needed of individually wrapped candy for the eggs and small prizes for the prize table. See Barb Hoffman with any questions.

## **JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST**

Start your Easter celebration with breakfast and fellowship at 9am on April 12th. Hosted by the Learning Committee.





### Budget Report for January 2020

Balance beginning of January:	\$0.00
Income Towards Budget for January:	\$ 6,015.72
Expenses Against Budget for January:	
Outreach	\$83.00
Staff	\$5,724.29
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,070.02
Utilities	\$835.47
Committees	\$45.00
	\$7,757.78
Monthly Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$ (1,742.06)
Year-to-Date Balance end of January:	(\$1,742.06)

#### Description of categories:

**Outreach:** Benevolence, special benevolence.

**Staff:** Pastor's compensation and benefits, staff salaries and benefits, FICA, worker's comp.

**Facility Upkeep/Administration:** Maintenance/repair and office expenses.

**Committees:** Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

**Utilities:** Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



March 8  
Aiden Ring  
March 11  
David Helter  
March 15  
Rose Mears  
March 22  
Brian Kent  
March 28  
Marilyn Boyd

## Congregational Contacts

Robyn Provis	Pastor	513-633-6038
Officers		<b>*Executive Committee</b>
Brian Kent	President	937-885-3529/937-572-3025
David Helter	Vice President	937-694-4321
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Cathy Zimmer	Secretary	937-212-9283
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198
Cheryl Page	Discipleship & WELCA Liaison	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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta & Kim Holtzman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade through 6 <sup>th</sup> 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





*St. John's Lutheran*

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

### SAVE THE DATES

#### **Bible Study Brunch**

Sunday, March 1, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Soup Supper and Evening Prayer Study**

Wednesday March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25,  
6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Study follows at 7 p.m.

#### **SonRise Breakfast**

Sunday, March 15, 6:00 a.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran in Dayton

#### **Primary Election**

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 a.m.

#### **Lively Lutherans**

Saturday, March 21, 11:30 a.m., El Rancho Grande

#### **March ACOLYTE'S**

March 1	Emma Holtzman
March 8	Aiden Ring
March 15	Zion Myambansig
March 22	Hannah Scheuller
March 29	Natalie Scheuller

#### **March LAY ASSISTANTS**

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

#### **March ALTAR GUILD**

Marilyn Boyd