



MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran

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

March 2021

Pastor's Page....

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27: 1

By the time we enter March, we will be well on the way on our Lenten Journey to Holy Week with its rollercoaster highs of Palm Sunday and its lows of Good Friday when we stand at the foot of the cross and fully take in Jesus' sacrifice for our sakes. This year we have the added hopeful expectation for that week to be the time we finally gather again in person to worship our way through our holiest of all weeks.

During Lent we have been prayerfully considering our own mortality with the ashes of Ash Wednesday and also reflecting on our own inability to resist temptation. We have been invited to examine all the ways that we push God away from us rather than offering ourselves fully to God's will.

Meanwhile, around us, the pandemic continues to disrupt lives and bring suffering as we reach the sad milestone of 500,000 deaths in our country. The difficulties of getting an appointment for the vaccine have ratcheted up anxiety levels, and the inevitable rough and tumble political discourse following a falsely contested election continues to sound ugly tone. Add to this the economic losses of many families, and we are tempted to stay under the covers. We feel we have much to be afraid of, and it suits us fine to just hunker down and keep our heads low.

But such is not the way of Christian living.

We are called to bring the light of the world to its darkest corners, even during this Lenten time of cleaning out our own dark corners of the heart. This passage from Psalm 27 reminds us that even in places of darkness, despair and fear, the Lord is our light and has secured our ultimate salvation in his own death on the cross, giving us the power of hope to push forward.

With Jesus as our stronghold, we can find the courage to go out looking for the darkness instead of avoiding it. Rather than dodging fear, we move out to face the problems of our communities and the world. That is our calling and the time we spend reflecting and praying in Lent, recharges us for this task.

God bless you with courage on the last leg of your Lenten journey!

Serving our strong Lord with you, *Pastor Joan*

President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

March 1st, 2021

Goodness gracious, it's March everyone. This is the most intense Ohio Winter I've seen in about 10 years, and I am sure we're weary of it and ready to think spring.

Of course, if we're thinking spring, we're thinking about Lent. Personally, I know some folks dread this part of the church season because it makes us think of the tremendous sacrifice of our savior and the pain and suffering he encountered during his mission of merciful salvation for us.

For me, Lent is a season I must have annually. It forces me to slow down a little, think about my life, and how to strive to remember we are here collectively on a mission to help and support each other within our community. It seems like the world's problems are so big, we can easily get discouraged in trying to make a difference. But as Pastor said last week, carrying Christ's cross does not mean we are responsible individually to solve world hunger, nuclear weapons proliferation, or any number of huge intractable problems. Our job is to attack hunger in our own midst and our own community. Our job is to suppress and address anger and injustice in our own encounters with others. Our job is to respect and accept other faith traditions, and find common ground in peaceful coexistence with neighbors who worship in a different tradition. Our job is to act responsibly from an environmental standpoint wherever we can, including recycling, minimizing unnecessary fuel usage, and so forth. If everyone all thought this way, we wouldn't have these "intractable" problems, would we?

So embrace the opportunity to pray, or perhaps to forgive a friend or loved one for which you have a strained relationship. Embrace the opportunity to reach out to the isolated and lonely, *especially* during COVID. Embrace the opportunity to send a few spare cents towards helping hands or any other ministry you're passionate about. "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing when giving alms." That's what Lent wants us to think about.

Lastly, we're trying to return to in-person worship beginning Palm Sunday. Council will review the usual restrictions, and I wish I could get rid of masking, but not quite yet. We'll have to mask up for a while. But I'm looking forward to sharing worship space with all of you. Look for updates from Karen as we get closer to the day of return on our worship "rules for the road".

Be well everyone, physically and spiritually. Use lent to Reflect, Repent, and Relearn that our Christmas Emmanuel is the same Son who will die on the Cross for you and me.

Brian

We will be accepting orders for Easter Flowers now thru **Sunday, March 28th**.

Easter Flowers

NAME: _____

Please indicate quantity and names for memorial. These flowers are yours to take home following the Easter service on April 4th.

*Make your check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church, and please mark it "Easter Flowers". Orders must be placed by **SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH**, to make sure of availability. Any orders placed after March 28th cannot be guaranteed. If you want to make a memorial contribution but don't want a flower or want to do both, please put the number of flowers you would like.*

QUANTITY _____ Assorted Mums (\$10.00 each) _____ Helping Hands _____

Check one of the following and fill in information as needed:

_____ *In honor of* _____

_____ *In loving memory of* _____

_____ *With glory and praise to God* _____

Please mail this slip, or drop off at the office, along with your payment to the church.

Amount paid _____



Did you know....If you don't have a computer, you can **JOIN** any Zoom services on your telephone!

Sunday Morning Zoom Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88017089351?pwd=aEI5OWRyWGVYSHM0SFJ1cFRuOUZmdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 1708 9351

Passcode: 149911

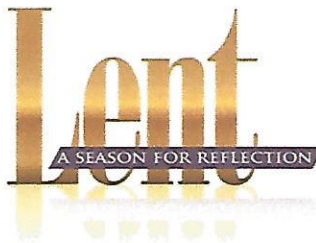


Dial by your location

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- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 880 1708 9351

Passcode: 149911



Lenten Midweek (Wednesday) Service Zoom Link

Did you know....If you don't have a computer, you can JOIN ZOOM MEETINGS on your telephone.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062610482?pwd=WExNM2ptWUJJSmw4M0V0NnAzYVBHQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6261 0482

Passcode: 041534

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 870 6261 0482

Passcode: 041534

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kEupMtA04>

Budget Report for January 2021

Income for January 2021:	\$	9,625.55
Expenses for January 2021:		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$3,591.60	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,254.98	
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75	
Utilities	\$749.24	
Committees	\$20.00	
		\$6,136.57
January Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$	3,488.98

Description of categories:

Outreach: Benevolence, special benevolence.

Staff: Pastor's pay and expenses, staff salaries and benefits, FICA, worker's comp.

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

Roof Loan: Monthly payment for fellowship hall roof repair loan from endowment.

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

Pastor Joan Armstrong	Interim Pastor	724-954-6717
Council Members		*Executive Committee
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
Bruce Holtzman		937-603-9198
Don Pabst		937-470-2404
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
Brook Nauta	Learning Committee Chair	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Ida Geary	WELCA President	937-626-7765
Doug McCabe	Organist	937-866-8669
Brook Nauta	Children's Choir	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Christian Education		
Barb Hoffman	Pre-k through 1 st Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta	2 nd Grade through 6 th Grade	513-217-0564/937-367-1473
Robin Skelding	Confirmation	937-748-5405
Ministry Contacts		
Nancy McCabe	Prayer Chain	937-866-8669
Kim Naylor	Son-Rise Breakfast @ First Lutheran	937-903-8638

Daylight Saving Time
begins on Sunday, March
14th





St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Palm Sunday, March 28, in person or via zoom at 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 1, in person or via zoom at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 2, in person or via zoom at 7:00 p.m.
Easter, April 4, in person or via zoom at 10:00 a.m.