



MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran

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

April 2021

Pastor's Page....

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain; love live again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green.

(Now the Green Blade Rises, ELW #379)

Now the Green Blade Rises has long been one of my favorite hymns, although I don't think I was able to work it into the hymn lineup for this year. The thought of the green blade rising after lying buried in the dark ground resonates strongly with me after this long, cold, lonely winter of the isolating COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many, I have now been fully vaccinated, and while not providing an impenetrable shield of protection, vaccination allows me to feel as if I have been freed from carrying a great weight of fear on my back every time I venture into public space. I feel as if I, too, have been raised from a sort of death of deprivation. I am also a green blade rising.

The joy of celebrating Christ's Resurrection this Easter is magnified by our delight at resuming in-person worship while still maintaining reasonable safety precautions. We are reminded that following Christ involves joining with others in community to praise and worship our Risen Lord Jesus as well as to encourage and serve each other in his name. It was never meant to be a solitary practice.

While our virtual worship and learning experiences have allowed us to continue our usual patterns, they are not nearly as satisfying as being together in our sanctuary where we feel the presence of our sisters and brothers, and the palpable presence of our Lord in the meal of bread and wine we can again share.

May we savor the joy of community this Spring as all of nature joins us in emerging from the darkness of winter to join the Light of the World in resuming our activities of fellowship and service to the world around us, so in need of that Love that comes again like wheat arising green.

Serving our Risen Lord with you,

Pastor Joan

President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

April 1st, 2021

Happy Easter Everyone....He Is Risen Indeed!

April 4th will be our first Easter Service in our Sanctuary since 2019, and I'm so glad you'll all be part of it. Although the pandemic is not yet over, between vaccinations and folks who unfortunately caught the disease, the number of cases has a distinct downward trend. Perhaps by summer, the health mandates will all be gone, but there is one change for St John's that Pastor and I want to announce. **We will be singing in Sunday worship, although we'll still need to distance and wear masks.** I know you all found it hard on Palm Sunday not to sing, but we believe the largest dangers have passed, and we should be OK, since we're already speaking responsively. So get warmed up to sing those Easter masterpieces!

I was gratified and almost overwhelmed to see everyone on Palm Sunday, it was so great to be together again. But as we return to "our Sanctuary," we need to be thinking how to restart our mission and purpose. From that standpoint, we have a lot to do. Let's begin with the Call Committee. Our Call members are Cindy Kemper, Bruce Holtzman, Julie Helter, Alan Jackson, and Beth Knight. For starters, we all are grateful to you as a group for volunteering for this important job. After Easter, we will connect you with Reverend Bob Abrams, who will fill you in and get you started with an introductory Zoom meeting. Your task will be to discuss, pray about, and complete a pastoral needs survey, which we hope reflects the type of future minister our Congregation needs. This will be the first step in identifying conditions and the type of candidates we may consider for our future Pastor.

Second, with Easter behind us, we'll need to plan for our Pentecost Celebration and the graduation of several youth from our confirmation class. This is a hugely important day in the young lives of Aiden Larsen and Melanie Ñauta, and we want a great turnout for Pentecost Service. We hope it will be warm enough to have some outdoor refreshments as we wish these Confirmand Graduates all the best in a life with the Lord.

Third, we need to think about restarting our outreach activities. Although Covid is still among us, we can still think about perhaps planning a couple of community events. A drive through version of Chicken Noodle Dinner (take outs), a community "Shred and Bread" where we invite our community to dump off papers that need to be shredded and collect some can goods/donations for helping hands. We're making inquiries with shredding companies to partner with, but we think a 3-4 hr. Saturday Event could bring a lot of traffic through our parking lot.

Lastly, Vacation Bible School. We have approached Parkview Church who is interested in co-running our VBS, meaning more hands and maybe a bigger turn out. Stay tuned for more on that. So, take walks in the warming weather, plant some spring plants, and think about how St John's comes out of its own "big thaw". God wants us "out there" so think past the building, we have work to do.

Brian Kent, President

Budget Report for February 2021

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|
| Income for February 2021: | | \$ 4,096.48 |
| Expenses for February 2021: | | |
| Outreach | \$250.00 | |
| Staff | \$3,463.20 | |
| Facility Upkeep/Administration | \$418.39 | |
| Roof Loan Payment | \$270.75 | |
| Utilities | \$545.93 | |
| Committees | \$20.00 | |
| | | \$4,968.27 |
| February Budget Balance (income - expenses): | | \$ (871.79) |

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.



- April 1
 Brook Ñauta
- April 4
 Marg Abner
 Kendall Ring
- April 6
 Gary Naylor
- April 8
 Brody Lamb
- April 12
 Ida Geary
- April 13
 Amy Ñauta
- April 17
 Alexandra Bell
- April 30
 Tom Settle

Congregational Contacts

Pastor Joan Armstrong Interim Pastor 724-954-6717

Council Members

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 |

***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 |
| Brook Ñauta | Learning Committee Chair | 513-217-0564/937-367-1473 |
| Ida Geary | WELCA President | 937-626-7765 |
| Doug McCabe | Organist | 937-866-8669 |
| Brook Ñauta | 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 Ñauta | 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 |



- April 10
 Kenneth & Sandra Yeazel
- April 23
 Garry & Nancy Andrews
- April 30
 Tom & Barb Hoffman



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited for Sunday school participants to be together again! For the time being, Sunday school will be taking place only on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

The newsletter is available electronically. Signing up on the website is easy - just go to the About Us tab, click on newsletter than scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up.

Your home copy of the Messenger will be in full color ... and ... you will be saving the church the cost of postage to mail it if you missed picking up your printed copy on the first Sunday of each month.