



MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran

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

June 2021

Pastor's Page....

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. ⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. ⁸ Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, ⁹ from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me."

Psalm 17: 6-9

Growing up in the 1960's in a pre-video game world, summer was always a time of outdoor games. My brother, John, and I were allowed to play with our friends after supper until it got dark, and the street lights came on. One of our favorite neighborhood games was Hide and Seek. In the shadows of dusk, we sought to hide ourselves carefully until the one who was "It" would shout: "Olly Olly, Oxen Free!" This call indicated that either "It" had found and tagged a new "It" or "It" had given up in frustration and wanted to start again. The best players were the ones who could stay hidden the longest.

I always wondered what Olly, Olly, Oxen Free meant and where it came from. It turns out it is a corruption of the phrase: "All ye, all ye outs in free." Just from looking at the word "ye" in that phrase, you can tell that the game of Hide and Seek has been around for a long time—maybe since the time in the Garden of Eden. After they had sinned, Adam and Eve tried to hide from God among the trees of the garden as God was walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze. Could that have been dusk?

Sometimes it truly does feel like we are playing Hide and Go Seek with God. We seek God, but finding God seems impossible. At other times, God seeks us, and like Adam and Eve, we hide from God in shame. On occasion, we may feel we have done something so awful, not even God can forgive us.

This passage from Psalm 17 is a reminder that the LORD does not hide from us, but rather serves to hide us from the cares and dangers of the world. This scripture suggests that we are never lost or even hidden from God, and God is never truly hiding. However, the search for God in our lives is as important as the finding.

When the Father sent the Son, Jesus, to live among us and to die for our sake, God came out of hiding to show God's true Self—a God of love, who wants us to have life eternal and the hope that comes with that. Jesus is the permanent "It." The game of Hide and Seek with God is finished forever in Christ. From the cross, Jesus shouts to us all: "Olly, Olly, Oxen Free!" All of us "outs" with God are now free and held in love.

This year we start the season with a new sense of hope provided by the vaccines and falling COVID-19 case numbers. Finally we can stop hiding behind our protective masks. For this we praise God in thanksgiving!

Together we serve the God who loves us enough to give us summer!

Pastor Joan

President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

June 1st, 2021

I am still in awe of our terrific Pentecost Service, wherein we welcomed Aiden Larsen and Melanie Ñauta into the world of confirmed Christians. I was so pleased with the love and support of their extended families, along with the Congregations warm expressions of love and support. I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Learning Committee for supporting all our Sunday School Students and Pastor in particular for taking the leadership role in the final Confirmation class. Our team may be small, but it is very dedicated, and we all need to be very grateful for their dedication and hard work.

Speaking of our learning program, we have published details for our VBS and a youth day on our website, but the information is included here. Vacation bible school will be held from July 12-16, 6-8pm at Parkview United Methodist Church, 3713 Benner Rd., Miamisburg. Parkview United Methodist and St. John's Lutheran have joined together this year as we grow fruits of Joy, Peace, Kindness, Self-Control and Love with games, crafts, science, Bible stories, music, and snacks. Registration may be found on our website, www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org. We will also have a Youth Day for rising middle and high school youth on July 10, 9am-1pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 470 S. Gebhart Church Rd. Miamisburg. Youth Day will be a fun time of games, crafts, science, and food, as well as a service project and chances to practice nonviolent communication and what to do with our emotions.

I am still seeking an adult volunteer to help us coordinate our Shred and Bread day. We have a vendor for the shredding lined up, we just need some organizational and publicity help, and we are also applying for a Thrivent's Works grant to help publicize the event. This is a one off opportunity, not a committee-for-life appointment, so if you can help us out, I would really appreciate it. See myself or Pastor Joan.

Speaking of Pastor Joan, the two of us wanted to share with you that Pastor is having some back issues, and will be taking some time off this summer to get it treated. We'll have the appropriate supply pastor's lined up in her absence, but as anyone (like me) who has had back problems, patience and rest is usually part of the solution. Now that we're past the busy Lent-Easter-Pentecost season, will give her some time, space, and rest to feel better. Thanks for your understanding during her planned absence.

Lastly, effective June 1st, the mask mandate for St John's is lifted. While you are welcomed to continue to mask in service or church activities, we will follow state mandates and no longer require masks in service or on site. Thank goodness our congregation was relatively spared the worst of COVID, and that I in part because you all worked collaboratively to minimize spread within our walls. I know how burdensome this was, but thank you for your help and cooperation.

Be safe this summer, wear your bike helmet, seatbelt, or personal floatation device as needed. We want you to enjoy a real summer and be around to talk about it. Gods Blessings to all.

Brian Kent, President.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, May 23rd Melanie Ñauta and Aiden Ring were confirmed as members of St. John's Lutheran Church, after the service there was a brief reception.





Congratulations Melanie and Aiden!

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

During the confirmation service there was a video from members of the congregation of their favorite bible verses:

- 2 Corinthian 4:8-9
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Ephesians 2:8
- Matthews 7:12
- John 15:12
- 1 John 4:16
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Philippians 4:6-7
- James 1:5
- John 3:16
- Genesis 1:27
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-9
- Jeremiah 29:11
- 1 Peter 5:7
- 2 Peter 3:18

2021 GRADUATES

We would like to congratulate the graduates of 2021.

- Allie Bell, Miamisburg High School
- Luke Helter, Oakwood High School
- Alex Woolf, Centerville High School
- Evan Bell, Ohio State University
- Connor Brogan, Wright State University
- Daniel Lookabaugh, Volunteer State Community College
- Brooklyn Mikesell, University of Dayton
- Margaret Woolf, Miami University

St. John's congregation wishes you all the luck in your future endeavors.



DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On Saturday, May 22nd six women from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organization did work in St. John's cemetery. They professionally cleaned tombstones of 5 American Revolutionary War soldiers buried in our cemetery.

The soldiers are Jacob Baum, George Gebhart, Jorg Peter Eagle, Frederick Fox and Jacob Benner.

The DAR is raising money to place permanent bronze plaques at each tombstone to commemorate their service. Each plaque cost approx. \$900. Donations to the DAR for the plaques are welcomed. The DAR is a non-profit organization.

JEREMIAH'S LETTER

Jeremiah's Letter is in need of the following household supplies:

- Twin sheets
- Towels
- Pillows
- Cookware (pots, pans & skillets)
- Cooking Utensils
- Plates



If you can help, please bring your donation to church, there is a wagon outside the sanctuary.

Cheryl Page will be taking the collected donations to Jeremiah's Letter the end of June.

DOUGHNUTS AND FELLOWSHIP!

Come early to worship on June 6th for doughnuts and fellowship as we celebrate the end of the Sunday school year and all the many things we have to be grateful for, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

SOCKS OF LOVE

We need men's tube socks, as well as travel size toiletry items to fill them: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, nail clippers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. The VBS kids will be filling the socks to be given out at the Sunrise Breakfast. Please place your donated items in the box in the narthex by July 4th.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT VBS

Ready for some fun? Parkview United Methodist and St. John's Lutheran have joined together this year as we grow fruits of Joy, Peace, Kindness, Self-Control and Love with games, crafts, science, Bible stories, music, and snacks.

VBS will be July 12-16, 6-8pm at Parkview for preschool-elementary age kids.

Middle and high schoolers are invited to attend Youth Day on July 10, 9am-1pm at St. John's.

Please invite friends and register on the St. John's website.

Do you want to help with VBS or Youth Day? Contact Brook Nauta, brooknauta@gmail.com, 937-367-1473 to volunteer. We will also be asking for donations during the month of June. Right now we need small plastic bottles with lids (water or other drink bottles) and medium sized river rocks. Please place VBS donation bin in narthex.



Budget Report for April 2021

Income for April 2021:		\$8,593.67
Expenses for April 2021:		
Outreach	\$250.00	
Staff	\$4,194.58	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,602.96	
Property Insurance	\$4,687.00	
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75	
Utilities	\$605.97	
Committees	\$125.24	
		\$11,736.50
April Budget Balance (income - expenses):		(\$3,142.83)
Year to Date Income:		\$29,659.78
Year to Date Expenses:		\$31,550.37

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.
- Property Insurance:** paid once a year in April
- Roof Loan:** Monthly payment for fellowship hall roof repair loan from endowment.
- Committees:** Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.
- Utilities:** Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- June 9
Sally Habib
- June 11
Karen Settle
- June 17
John Boyd
- June 22
Matthew Page
- June 23
Nancy Jones-Andrews
- June 29
Dan Reed
- June 30
Luke Helter
Everett Morris

Congregational Contacts

Pastor Joan Armstrong Interim Pastor 724-954-6717

Council Members

Brian Kent *President
 Don Pabst *Vice President
 Linda Kent *Church Treasurer
 Cathy Zimmer *Secretary
 Judy Kuemmel *Financial Secretary
 Bruce Holtzman
 Garry Andrews
 Ida Geary

***Executive Committee**

937-885-3529/937-572-3025
 937-470-2404
 937-885-3529/937-572-7815
 937-212-9283
 937-321-1198
 937-603-9198
 937-848-2090
 937-626-7765

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 1st Grade 937-859-8871/937-231-6341
 Brook Nauta 2nd Grade through 6th 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



- June 25
Jim and Tammy Denman



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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

- Monday, May 31st, Office Closed – Memorial Day
- Friday, June 4th, TWIGS Scrapbooking, 5 pm to 12 am
- Saturday, June 5th, TWIGS Scrapbooking, 9 am to 11 pm
- Sunday, June 6th, Donuts and Fellowship, 9 am
- Monday, June 7th, WELCA Meeting at the church, 6:30 pm
- Friday, June 11th, TWIGS Scrapbooking, 5 pm to 12 am
- Saturday, June 12th, TWIGS Scrapbooking, 9 am to 11 pm
- Sunday, June 20th, SonRise Breakfast, 6 am

