



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

March 2022

Pastor's Pen....

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Ephesians 3:20-21

As Paul would say: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I say merely: Greetings!

While I am not coming back to St. John's to the extent that I was serving with you in the past, I will begin to take up a few tasks over the next months to help in your pastoral leadership transition. Writing some words to you each month is one of the things I am offering. I look forward to being among you with some regularity and ask that you would pray that this time of transition would prove to be a time of renewal and growth for each of you and for the congregation.

Ash Wednesday is late this year on March 2nd and soon we will be observing the season we call Lent. This is a holy season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and usually associated with deep personal examination and repentance. This very important period of the church year is called by a very non-theological word. The word Lent comes from the Old English and is simply a name for Spring, which we hope will also be coming upon us shortly.

In Spring we go from the washed out browns of lawns gone dormant, barren trees, and empty gardens to the beautiful explosion of new life as bright green leaves emerge and daffodils and tulips bloom. In Lent we go from the examination of the brokenness and sin in our lives that necessitated a Savior, Jesus, to become Emmanuel, God with us, to his death on the cross, to the triumphant Easter emergence of the Risen Christ from the tomb to new life now offered to us as well.

Even though Jesus told his disciples plainly that the sequence of events unfolding at the time of Passover would lead to his resurrection, nobody really believed it. The women came to the grave expecting to minister to a body, not a Risen Lord.

The verses above and the Easter story are a reminder of how limited our imaginations can be. Not only do we tend to doubt Jesus' power to transform sinful lives and hopeless situations, but we also underestimate our own ability to be the agents of transformation. We often tell a story of scarcity—not enough children, no younger members, most are aging and can't do as much, there's never enough money, and we have to prepare for a rainy day, so we can't afford risk—when Jesus is inviting us to see things through God's eyes, always focused on abundance.

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While we fear we might be asking too much of ourselves and God to accomplish big things in the way of mission, Paul reminds the Ephesians and St. John's that instead we are not asking for and expecting to receive enough.

This Spring, this Lent, holds the promise of reemergence and hope that we can slowly begin to live our lives without so many COVID required social limitations due to the blessing of vaccines, new treatments and vigilance. As things become safer, we can resume some of the wonderful fellowship and service activities as well as traditions that the faith family at St. John's has longed to renew.

As we begin to "green up," let us dare to dream big dreams of what we can do to serve God and our neighbors out of the abundance of blessings we have received. More importantly, let us trust that our visions can become reality to the glory of God.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Joan

President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

March 1st, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Season of Lent. We all know that this is the most "solemn" period of the annual church year, but have you ever wondered about "why the 40 days of Lent?" Lent is the traditional Christian period of 40 days which comes before Easter in our Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Also, the 40 days *do not include* the Sundays of Lent. Luther called the intervening Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Lent "Little Easters" with the Celebration of our true Easter resurrection on Sunday April 17, 2022.

Speaking of reflections and preparation, St Johns will not be doing in person mid-week Lenten services. However, if there is sufficient interest, we plan to offer a virtual 30-40 minute Lenten reflection/bible study from 7:30-8:10 PM starting the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. I am reading a new book from nationally published author, Mr. Jeff Armbruster, titled "Live Humbly Serve Graciously". I have the privilege of calling Jeff a close personal friend, who I met in 2013 and who helped nudge my life's path further into Christian service. Even if we cover the Chapters 1 or 2, this bible study would be very meaningful. Karen will send out a survey separately if you wish to join us (you don't *have* to buy his book, but I highly recommend it). Those services will have a separate zoom link which we'll provide later.

Next, I'll quickly mention our Covid numbers in the county are again dropping fast, now less than 900 a day. That's great! Starting the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, we'll return to normal communion. Again, you are always welcomed (but not required) to wear a mask if it makes you more comfortable in church.

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Lastly, we are changing the zoom link to the weekly Sunday Service beginning this Sunday. Here is the new Link, and Karen will send this out on Constant Contact as well. The new link will automatically mute you when you log in.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85711628176?pwd=V0dOK21vekJqNTIwM3hOT2UyNzkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 1162 8176, Passcode: 071964

Dial (sound only): 1-(929) 205 6099 or +1 (301) 715 8592

God's Peace,

Brian M Kent, Ph.D., President
St John's Lutheran Church, Miamisburg, OH

WELCA Monthly Meeting

The 1st WELCA meeting for 2022 will be at Nancy McCabe's house at 6:30. Dinner will include Nancy's take on green everything! All women are invited.



Personal Care Kits

The Discipleship Committee will be taking donations for Personal Care Kits to people in need to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

The items that will be needed are:

- Bar soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Comb and brush
- Nail clippers
- Shaving supplies
- Feminine hygiene products

Items will be collected can be put in the red wagon in the narthex April 10th. For more information, contact Cheryl Page 937-602-7952. Watch for details about when we will need help to assemble our Personal Care Kits that will be taken to Miamisburg Helping Hands.



Fellowship Hall Roof Loan Update

The loan for replacing the fellowship hall roof started at \$25,377 back in October 2020. With monthly payments of \$270.75 and several additional generous donations, the 10-year roof loan is being paid off much faster and could even be retired this year!

The current balance of the loan at the end of January was \$3,835.77. A celebration is planned for the congregation when the loan is paid off. Help us retire this loan so we can party!



The Discipleship Committee would like to thank everyone for their very generous giving for Jeremiah's Letter for both items and money. The picture shows Dennis Hawley, receiving the gifts at his office on Xenia Avenue in Dayton.

Happening's in March

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|----------------|-----------|---|
| • March 2 | 7:00 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Service |
| • March 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting in Fellowship Hall |
| • March 4 & 11 | 5:00 p.m. | TWIGS Scrapbooking Event |
| • March 5 & 12 | 9:00 a.m. | TWIGS Scrapbooking Event |
| • March 7 | 6:30 p.m. | WELCA Monthly Meeting @ Nancy McCabe's house |
| • March 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 in Undercroft |
| • March 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #30200 in Undercroft |
| • March 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #32299 in Undercroft |
| • March 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Learning Committee Meeting in Upper Room |
| • March 20 | 6:00 a.m. | SonRise Breakfast @ 1 st Lutheran Church |
| • March 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 in Undercroft |
| • March 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #32299 in Undercroft |

Every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. AA/Al Anon meets in Fellowship Hall

Every Monday & Friday at noon, there is an AA Group in Fellowship Hall

*Please let the office know of any meetings and/or events that need to be included in the calendar.
This will ensure rooms are not double booked.*



Janet Reed and Geoff Miller working on contemporary music for St John's Lutheran Church Miamisburg. (Photo courtesy of Dan Reed.)

Geoff passed away Monday, February 14th.

Irish Soda Bread

4 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for currants
4 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch dice
1 3/4 cups cold buttermilk, shaken
1 extra-large egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon grated orange zest
1 cup dried currants



Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.

Combine the flour, sugar, baking soda, and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Add the butter and mix on low speed until the butter is mixed into the flour.

With a fork, lightly beat the buttermilk, egg, and orange zest together in a measuring cup. With the mixer on low speed, slowly add the buttermilk mixture to the flour mixture. Combine the currants with 1 tablespoon of flour and mix into the dough. It will be very wet.

Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and knead it a few times into a round loaf. Place the loaf on the prepared sheet pan and lightly cut an X into the top of the bread with a serrated knife. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean. When you tap the loaf, it will have a hollow sound.

Cool on a baking rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.



Budget Report for January 2022

Income for January 2022: **\$9,403.01**

Expenses for January 2022:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$2,298.71
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$588.32
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75
Utilities	\$783.52
Committees	\$106.56
	\$4,380.86

January Budget Balance (income - expenses): **\$5,022.15**

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.

Transfers for Future Use: \$7,000 to Pastoral Call Fund, \$6,938 to Capital Improvements

Roof Loan Starting Balance **\$25,377.00**

January 31, 2022 Balance **\$3,835.77**



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

Congregational Contacts

Council Members

Brian Kent	*President
Everett Morris	*Vice President
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer
Cathy Zimmer	*Secretary
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary
Garry Andrews	
Ida Geary	

*Executive Committee

937-885-3529/937-572-3025
937-760-1099
937-885-3529/937-572-7815
937-212-9283
937-321-1198
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 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
Beth Knight	Son-Rise Breakfast @ First Lutheran	330-692-2092



We are Christian disciples serving the world while receiving, rejoicing, and relaying God's grace!



St. John's Lutheran

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