



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

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

May 2022

## Pastor's Pen....

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

Jesus gives this new commandment to his disciples after washing the dusty, calloused feet of his disciples and just after unlovable Judas leaves the dinner and goes out into the darkness of the night on his errand of betrayal. This single command overrides all of the rest. It's the one thing, but it's the hard thing.

After all, if we love one another, we will not kill each other, or steal from others, or bear false witness and gossip against our neighbors. When we have the love that Jesus commands us to have, we naturally will not act in ways that are harmful to others and ourselves. But the only way we can ever actually come close to living in such love for one another is if we are already keeping the first three commandments about loving and honoring God. We need to belong to God with all our hearts and minds in order to love others because often those others do things that hurt us terribly. Often those darn others we are supposed to love just aren't lovable, and they don't seem to love us back either.

One simple commandment: **"Love one another."** Yet our human nature makes this commandment tougher to keep than all the others. Jesus understood that when he said these words to his disciples. He knew they would be facing situations that required love because it is **commanded**, not because it is evoked by the actions of others. Jesus didn't say these words to offer a "suggestion" of how his disciples are to live. He **commanded** them to love and told them that when they love others as he has loved them, it would be so noticeable, so counter the culture of the world in any time or place, that observers would know that they were his followers solely because of it.

Jesus says that this kind of love is a more obvious mark of a Christian than wearing a cross around your neck, or a fish sign on your bumper, or even going to church. Jesus knew these words would be hard for 21<sup>st</sup> Century people to live by, just as they were hard for the early church fathers and mothers.

The only way we can attempt this kind of love is by remembering the depth of love Jesus shows us. His love is so great, he died for us, and rose from the dead on Easter so that we could share his love for us with others.

We are an Easter people, living in Easter love and celebrating Jesus' Easter resurrection every morning. The power of the resurrection empowers us to love as Jesus did.

Celebrating Jesus' Easter Love with you, *Pastor Joan*

## President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

May 1st, 2022

He is Risen Indeed! Our Easter celebration was magnificent, and it was great after two years to have a real Easter breakfast served indoors without "that thing" hanging over your nose. We should be very grateful in thanking our Savior for sparing the worse for our Congregation. We are especially grateful for the many health and first responders, grocers, and many other service occupations that continues despite the pandemic. We owe everyone our gratitude. Say thanks to your grocer or pharmacist or local business next time you have the chance.

As we move into later spring, there is a LOT going on. Council is currently working on three specific issues.

1. Last month, we notified the Congregation that we were in preliminary discussions with Pastor Bonny Kinnunen of Germantown Lutheran about a potential shared pastoral arrangement. Pastor Bonny met with Council, our staff, and our Call Committee. Sadly, after significant conversations, Pastor has terminated the discussions of serving as our shared Pastor. A letter from her to the Congregation may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. On Behalf of the Council and the Call Committee members, we very much appreciated Pastor Bonny's due consideration, and wish her Godspeed in her ministerial duties. Council and the Call Committee will continue to pursue new opportunities to fill our part-time call.
2. There are some new ELCA and Southern Ohio Synod guidelines in development regarding the execution of our Church youth programs. Council will be working with the Learning Committee and the Synod to bring us into compliance with the new guidance. Part of the policy requires the publication of this youth policy, so when we're done with our "homework" we'll share that document with the entire congregation. Note this document just doesn't apply to St Johns itself, but any group wishing to use our facility must comply as well.
3. Council is looking to start up a small "emergency community outreach group" whose charter would be to work with one-off requests that routinely come to our church for small, short term needs request. I have a separate article about this in this newsletter, so I'll leave details to that article. I will say the effort will be modestly funded, and those on the front lines "helping our community needs" will allow us to put a Christian Face to help legitimate families and individuals in need. Council doesn't expect this effort to be easy nor perfect, but there is enough need out there, we must as Disciples of Christ try our best.
4. While most of the church is "physically" in good shape, The Board of Trustees is planning some much needed capital projects for this spring and summer, some of which will require the Congregation's approval because the costs may exceed 3% of our budget. These capital projects include (1) Replacing our 12 year old copier which is on its "digital deathbed" of obsolescence. (2) Putting a stone façade where the ugly white wall is along the new sanctuary entrance behind the plants, (3) cutting up and disposing of deadfall and honeysuckle in the Glen before VBS and (4) replacing the electrical "add-a-phase" motor that powers the elevator to a quiet, solid state, efficient unit that can be left on 24 hours a day. In the coming weeks we'll quantify costs and call a short congregation meeting to proceed. We have some funds for some of these items, but if you have interest in donating to any of the above, just specify it in your donation.

*(continued on next page)*

Let me know if you have questions at [brian.kent.phd@gmail.com](mailto:brian.kent.phd@gmail.com). God's Peace to you all.

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

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### Council looking for Volunteers for a new "Good Samaritan emergency community outreach group"

Per my Presidents Message, Council is looking for 2-4 people to help create a "Good Samaritan outreach group". Most churches have a small team that can respond to ad-hoc community requests for direct short term financial needs. This may include one-time help with groceries, utilities, rent, or other time critical needs. Council fully understands there are many community organizations with overlapping capabilities and responsibilities to provide *long term help* for those in severe need. However, many of these services are not open nights and weekends, or may not be able to respond to a particular short term time sensitive need. The ELCA is encouraging congregations to stand up what they refer to as a "Good Samaritan" committee. A draft charter of this group is provided below, and the first action would be for the group to finalize it. Council would like to fund this group initially at \$500.00, and will, from time to time, replenish the groups budget in concert with legitimate requests for help. To minimize (not necessarily eliminate) illegitimate need requests, the committee will provide the support commensurate to the need. If it's groceries, perhaps a Kroger Card. For rent, we would pay the landlord directly. In other words, we'll work with the request to make sure whatever aid we prepare goes to the need. Furthermore, we will also provide the requestor with a list of civic organizations and county offices for them to contact for *sustained* help. Now Council realizes such a group may not always get it right and someone being helped may not be fully honest – that's OK. On the balance, if we can help Karen by relieving her of the responsibility to take and act on such calls, that would be greatly helpful. Furthermore, the committee will meet only when it needs to. But they would be on call if Karen gets that "I need food/something else now" phone call.

Please let me know if you would like to serve this ministry. Because of the nature of the group, I really need a mix of men and women to fill this need. Thanks for your consideration. (Brian Kent)

### //////////////////// Draft Charter //////////////////////////////////////

Sample Policy [St Johns], in keeping with its Biblical and charitable goals, has established a Helping Hands/Good Samaritan Fund to assist persons in our community in financial need. Donors may suggest beneficiaries of the Fund. However, such suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of the Fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the committee up to \$500 annually, an amount that can be raised by Council if needed. The Congregation Council will approve membership in a Helping Hands/Good Samaritan Fund Committee consisting of at least three of the Congregation's members. All gifts designated to this Fund are gifts to the Congregation and while the Committee may consider suggested designations, in no event is the Congregation bound to follow them. Checks should be made payable to the Congregation, with a notation that the funds are to be placed in the Congregation's Helping Hands/Good Samaritan Fund.



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

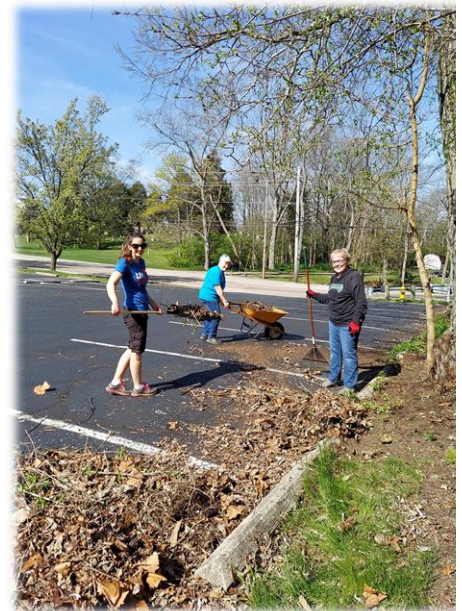
## EASTER EGG HUNT/PALM SUNDAY/EASTER SUNDAY







*St John's Youth and their parents spent the day on Saturday, April 23<sup>d</sup>, cleaning up, planting flowers and tree in honor of Earth Day. Of course it finished with a nice creek walk.*



## HELPING HANDS

The Discipleship Committee would like to thank everyone who donated personal care items during the lent season for Helping Hands. The picture shows a volunteer from Helping Hands with all the items that were donated.

Cheryl Page



## SUNDAY ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 857 1162 8176

Passcode: 071964

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,85711628176#,,,,\*071964# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85711628176#,,,,\*071964# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 857 1162 8176

Passcode: 071964

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdSEte9ZyO>

## REMINDER

You can always find the Zoom link for the simulcast Sunday services on St. John's website:  
[www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org)

Click on the "In-Person Worship and Simulcast Link" menu option near the top of the home page.

## 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 then scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up or contact the office to get signed up for electronic copies.

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.



### Budget Report for March 2022

<b>Income for March 2022:</b>	<b>\$6,090.34</b>
<b>Expenses for March 2022:</b>	
Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$2,295.75
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,181.62
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75
Utilities	\$633.95
Committees	\$676.99
	<b>\$5,392.06</b>
<b>March Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>	<b>\$698.28</b>
<b>YTD Income:</b>	<b>\$19,724.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses:</b>	<b>\$13,886.04</b>
<b>Roof Loan Starting Balance:</b>	<b>\$25,377.00</b>
<b>March 28, 2022 Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,323.83</b>

#### 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 Payment:** Monthly payment for fellowship hall roof repair loan from endowment.

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

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



May 3  
Delinda Pierce  
May 7  
Steve Knick  
May 14  
Jean Roberts  
May 20  
Seth Helter  
May 21  
Kim Holtzman  
May 22  
Debra Humphrey  
May 28  
Logan McKown  
Paul Settle  
May 29  
Ursula Morris  
May 31  
Cheryl Page

### 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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Nauta	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade through 6 <sup>th</sup> 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



May 21  
Bruce & Kim Holtzman



*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](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org)**  
**Email: [secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org)**

## HAPPENING'S IN MAY

- May 2 6:30 p.m. WELCA Monthly Meeting @ church
- May 3 6:30 a.m. Primary Election
- May 5 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
- May 8 & 22 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #32299
- May 10 & 24 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- May 11 7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #30200
- May 15 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- May 15 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- May 18 6:30 p.m. Learning Committee Meeting
- May 22 Last Day of Sunday School
- May 25 8:00 a.m. LifeLine Screening

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.*



**Reverend Bonny Kinnunen**  
1809 East Mile Rd  
Springfield, OH 45503

April 28, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Council and Call Committee  
470 South Gephart Church Road  
Miamisburg, OH 45387

Dear Brian Kent, President, Julie Helter, the Call Committee Chair,

I thank you for taking the time to consider sharing ministry with Emmanuel's Lutheran in Germantown Ohio and myself. It has been great to interview with Brian Kent, Council President as well as Julie Helter, and the Call Committee. Taking the matter of "Call" to serve St. John's and Emmanuel's together, I have spent much time in prayer and discernment. It hasn't been an easy process as many pieces are perfect. St. John's is physically close to Emmanuel's. There is a desire to do ministry together. St. John's has a vision for working together in youth ministry, dinner ministries and Sunday School. Emmanuel's showed interest in coming together in Bible Study and joining the youth together would be great.

In that discernment process, I have come to understand that I do not have a "call" for me to serve St. John's. It has been a surprise to me as there are so many good things about working together. Try as I may to convince the Holy Spirit that this was a good idea, my thoughts were never supported. I can only understand that there is another person that the Holy Spirit has in mind to serve St. John's. For myself, I don't have a crystal ball to comprehend what the Holy Spirit has in mind for myself or Emmanuel's. I simply trust that God knows what God is up to. And we must follow God's lead.

Thank you for taking the time to explore this possibility. Again, I hate to bring you this news that I do not experience a call to serve St. John's. I invite us each to continually be in prayer as God will guide us.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bonny Kinnunen

Cc: Pr. Bob Abrams  
Dana Tegtmeyer, Emmanuel's Council President  
Brian Kent, St. John's Council President