



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

July 2022

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

I don't know about you but this year has brought me a lot more worry than I expected. I started the year with my joint fusion surgery, and first I worried that it wouldn't be successful. While I would say that it has been, it hasn't been without complications. I developed a painful case of bursitis, which at times hurts just about as much as the joint did before it was fused. Now I worry if my physical therapy routine is making it better or worse!

This year I also began worrying about something that I haven't worried about much for the last few years. Some things were set in motion that started me down a path of anxiety about my immediate and long term financial security.

My short term security has been threatened by a couple of unexpectedly high bills coming after a period where my income was lower because I couldn't work. One was a tax bill, another a car repair, and most recently, an emergency hospitalization of my dog, Roxy. Pressure was mounting, and then I noticed something else that I'm sure you have noticed as well. Inflation was eating up my budget faster than ever before.

This fear about rising costs has combined with a precipitous drop in the stock market to bring concerns for my long term security. To my surprise, a friend I assumed was well fixed financially revealed that her precarious situation was keeping her up at night. That's when I realized I had fallen into the trap of thinking I was the only one in my circle who was faced with monetary challenges.

I suspect many among us are also worrying now about how money isn't going as far as it did a year ago and what that means for our lives, loved ones and future.

Jesus does not want us losing sleep over such things, and that's why Paul wrote the words he did in Philippians. Paul understood that we humans tend to fret and agonize over things that haven't even happened yet. In my case, I had the funds to cover the unexpected expenses, but it made me

(Continued on next page)

nervous to spend so much so suddenly at an inopportune time. Similarly, I don't currently need the savings that have shrunk in the market downturn, so I haven't really suffered an actual hit there yet.

In Matthew Jesus has a lot to say about worry as a part of his Sermon on the Mount. He reminds us not to worry about our lives and how we will eat or our clothing or any of the other material things we tend to worry about. The birds of the air are fed, the flowers of the field are clad in radiant finery and yet these things are not nearly as valuable to God as we are.

The antidote to worry is rejoicing and the heart of rejoicing is gratitude. As I review my situation I have much to be grateful for. I have the capacity and the strength to put in some extra work and catch up with the bills that are bothering me now. I have the health I need to take care of myself without costly additional help. Surely that calls for rejoicing!

What we can all do is share our anxieties with God, review our many blessings, and trust in that peace that passes understanding that our hearts and minds will be guarded in Christ Jesus, our only true security.

Serving our Savior with you,
Pastor Joan



President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

July 1st, 2022

It's been a tough couple of weeks for the entire Nation. Politically, no matter where you stand on the issue, abortion is suddenly back into the national conversation and debate. Don't worry, my goal here is not to delve or take a position on that debate. However, as President of an ELCA Congregation, I wanted to inform you that regardless where you stand on this very complicated issues, you should understand what our Lutheran Church believes and advises regarding abortion. The policy is not short, but should be read by practicing members of our faith. You can find it at <https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statements/abortion>. The Supreme Court basically devolved abortion law back to State Governments. Ohio, and other states, will re-establish state specific abortion laws and policies. I urge you to educate yourself on ELCA's policy so you may understand the valid concerns of both the "Pro-Life" and "Pro Choice" movement. Any Ohio or Federal solution must embrace a great deal of praying, soul searching, and reasonable compromise. Again, this column is not to profess my personal position, but to provide a resource to you so you can participate, or not, in our national abortion policy debate. As you feel directed by the Spirit, you may express your own opinions to our State lawmakers so they understand the complexities of this divisive issue. No matter where such policies end up, we must pray they include a recognition of the need to forgive and redeem those affected most, and that Jesus' love applies equally to those advocate for or seek solutions.

Second, as we move into the season of the 4th of July, we must not let this or any other single issues dilute our faith in Jesus Christ. Nor should it distract from the fact that, though imperfect as a human institution, our Nation's believe in freedom, liberty, and opportunity still applies to all of us. We should be especially grateful for our First Amendment Establishment's clause, which states **"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;** "What this means to each of us is that this clause not only forbids the government from establishing an official religion, but also prohibits government actions that unduly favor one religion over another. It is this clause that the Supreme Court also re-validated the ability of a Washington State High School Coach to pray by himself on the 50 yard line of his High School Football team after a game. It's the same clause that tells any company they cannot deny time for a Muslim. Jew, or Christian to privately pray in his workplace. It means for us Lutherans we can give thanks to God over our work lunches, or take off for a religious holiday without fear of retribution or firing.

Our Constitution represents a set of ideals for our Country to live by. Our beliefs in Jesus as our Savior by grace is a belief that cannot be challenged by the US Government. You should be thankful to live in this country on this basis alone, as over 360 *million* Christians worldwide live under Governments that persecute and punish Christian practices. So while we, as a country, have "family feuds" over various national social and fiscal policies, at least we live in a country where that debate can take place and where we can publically, without fear, ask Jesus forgiveness whenever we get it wrong. So continue to joyously celebrate July 4th and Easter Sunday. Our spiritual lives depend on it!

Respectfully, Brian

Volume MMXXII

Issue 7 July 2022

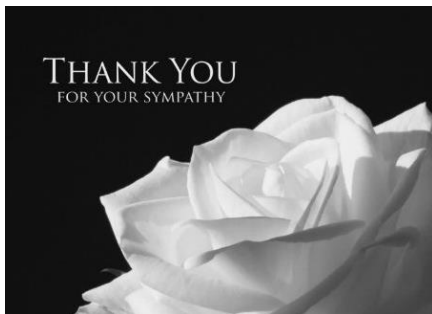


Youth Day will be on July 9th, 10:00 am-1:00 pm at St. John's. All middle and high school youth are invited for fun activities, peace skills and a service project for Habitat for Humanity. Lunch will be provided.

Please sign up at stjohnsmiamisburg.org and bring a t-shirt or other item to tie dye.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING PURCHASE OF AED

Thanks to all who contributed to the purchase of an AED (defibrillator) that will be installed at the church. Once installed, training will be provided for this potentially life-saving equipment.



Thank you to everyone for your love and support during this difficult time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Anita Miller and Marilyn Boyd family

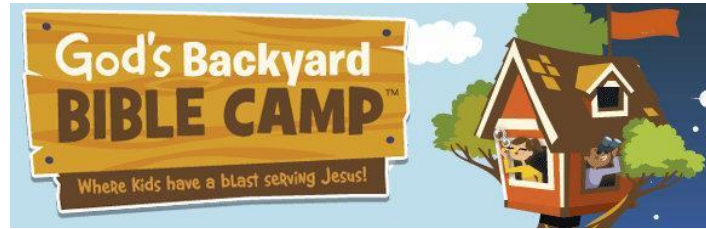
SUMMER PARK LUNCHES

St. John's will be providing 30-50 sack lunches every Friday from June 10-July 29 for kids attending Miamisburg Park Days.

Beth, Olivia and Aubrey Knight delivered "Walking Tacos" on June 10th.



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



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

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 than 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 May 2022



Income for May 2022: **\$10,651.63**

Expenses for May 2022:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$2,687.06
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,669.77
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75
Utilities	\$360.60
Committees	\$64.46
	\$5,385.64

May Budget Balance (income - expenses): **\$5,265.99**

YTD Income: **\$38,009.85**

YTD Expenses: **\$29,510.77**

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

May 31, 2022 Balance: **\$297.66**

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 May.

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

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

July 1
Evan Lewis Bell
July 12
Emily Bell
July 14
Craig Naylor
July 23
Ruby Clark
July 6
Ron Bowell
July 29
Ann Nade

Congregational Contacts

Council Members

Brian Kent	*President	937-885-3529/937-572-3025
Everett Morris	*Vice President	937-760-1099
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Cathy Zimmer	*Secretary	937-212-9283
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198
Garry Andrews		937-848-2090
Ida Geary		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



July 5
Doug & Nancy McCabe
July 21
Everett & Ursula Morris



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

HAPPENING'S IN JULY

- July 1 6:00 p.m. Last Night of Vacation Bible School @ Parkview United Methodist
- July 9 9:30 a.m. Youth Day
- July 10 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- July 17 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- July 20 6:30 p.m. Learning Committee Meeting

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



**The office will be closed on
Wednesdays in July and August.**