



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

August 2022

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

Who is in the cloud of witnesses that surrounds you? Periodically I ponder that question. In the past, I have always thought of all the faithful Sunday school teachers, pastors, and fellow disciples who have mentored me in my faith over seven decades. But something has happened to help me to see the cloud in a much larger way.

Recently, I re-connected with a fairly distant cousin. Barbara's grandmother and my father were first cousins, and at one time, our families were fairly close. But time and distance had put us out of touch until Facebook sparked a new interest in each other and our families a few years ago. I haven't seen Barbara since I was a little girl.

As I write this, I am planning on getting together with her and some even more distance cousins related to her grandmother's brother the last weekend in July. To prepare for our visit, I went through a box of photos, postcards and documents that had been dumped on me ten years ago by yet another cousin who didn't want to be in charge of the "archive" of my father's side of the family. I was the recipient because of my German language skills.

My family members are relative newcomers to America, as I am only the second generation born here on both sides. Neither my mother's Norwegian family nor my father's German family seemed particularly religious to me as I was growing up. To my knowledge, neither parent was raised attending church regularly. To this day, I'm not even sure my father was baptized. My fraternal grandmother, Minnie, who died when I was 8 or 9, attended a Baptist church, I knew, but my own family only established a connection to a church when I was born through my mother's desire to get my siblings and me baptized. The fact that the church was Lutheran appeared entirely random. I hadn't considered my immediate or extended family to be particularly influential in my cloud as faith was never front and center for them.

Yet unlike others, I had always had a thirst for God, a desire to feel the Holy Spirit moving in me, and I enjoyed hearing about Jesus and his love for all, including the outcasts. Many pastors have parents and grandparents who were pastors, but that was not the case for me. I always wondered, why did **I** feel called to become an ordained minister? Where in the world did that come from? Who set **me** on the race to perfect my faith?

(Continued on next page)

Back to the box! Sure enough, as I combed through the old photos of unnamed ancestors, a variety of newspaper clippings, advertisements, and assorted official documents, I made some very interesting and unexpected discoveries about my ancestral family. I had been told my grandma's younger sister, Magdalena, or Lenchen as we called her, was a religious sister who taught in an elementary school. Since they all lived in Southern Germany, which is predominantly Roman Catholic, I assumed Lenchen was a nun.

However, I ran across a document labeled: *Ahnentafel Abschrift der Kammerer Magdalena* which is translated: Official Family Tree of Magdalena Kammerer. This paper showed Lenchen's lineage back to the time just before the Revolutionary War and was full of names and information I had never seen before. Each ancestor's name, occupation, birth, death and marriage dates, along with the locations of each event, were written out in spidery German handwriting. The document had an official stamp of the Church Office in St. Georgen, where my grandma and her family lived. Also included for each was their church denomination.

To my surprise, each of these family members were listed as Evangelisch—Protestant or what we call Lutheran! Lenchen's occupation was given as Diakonisse—A Lutheran deaconess and not a Roman Catholic nun.

Suddenly, I found I had a way bigger cloud of witnesses around me than I imagined. Perhaps our family affiliation with the Lutheran church was not as much by chance as I have been led to believe. I am just one in a line of Lutherans going back as least as far as only two hundred years after the Reformation.

Now I have begun to wonder, whose clouds include me as one of the witnesses who has encouraged someone to run their race? How have I helped a disciple to "...look to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith?"

Soon we will be starting our return to the fall routine that includes Faith Formation for our youth through Sunday school and confirmation. We give thanks for those who are encouraging our youth to run the race set before them. Consider how you might also take on a role in deepening someone's faith, becoming a part of that person's cloud of witnesses to the abundant life we find when we live in Christ Jesus!

Serving our Lord with you!

Pastor Joan

Dear Siblings in Christ,

August 1st, 2022

I hope all our families are enjoying their summer vacations and school breaks. Amazingly, we're just a few weeks from returning to schools, and our own Sunday School will reconvene with "rally day" in September. However, there are a few important items we are trying to complete before this autumn arrives upon us.

I explained in my Pastor's meditations last May that there are some new ELCA and Southern Ohio Synod guidelines in development regarding the execution of our Church youth programs. Council worked with the Learning Committee, and our Synod to write up a new policy to bring us into compliance with the new ELCA wide guidance. Council will vote on the final policy on August 9th, and on Sunday August 21st, we will have a short (15 minute) Congregational Meeting to adopt the new policy. The Congregation's "buy in" is critical to show our support to any staff member working with youth. Our Learning Committee has been part and parcel to this policy, so it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone. But the formality of your approval is critical, so thank you in advance to attending and voting to adopt this policy.

Also, we started on July 31st and will continue until August 7th to get every St John's member to complete a "Congregational Vibrancy" survey. This survey is short, maybe 15 minutes tops to complete. The survey results will be conveyed to Katie Kerrigan at Synod, and she will return on a future Sunday to discuss its results and implications. Thank you in advance for your opinion. Also, if you cannot make it to church on either Sunday July 31st, or August 7th, you can email Karen Doyle, secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org for a copy, but your inputs must be received back to Karen not later than August 15th for it to be included.

Let me know if you have questions at brian.kent.phd@gmail.com.

God's Peace to you all.

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

A few of the people who were present on Father's Day, June 19th.





YOUTH EVENT @ YOUNGS DAIRY

The Learning committee is having a youth event, Putt-Putt and Ice Cream at Young's Dairy on August 5th at 6:00 p.m. Parkview youth will also be joining us.

Contact Beth Knight with any questions.

We will meet at the Putt-Putt Course at Young's Dairy.



Youth day on Saturday, July 9th with Parkview Church was a success!

The kids had fun making welcome signs for Habitat for Humanity, Tie-died t-shirts and learning about conflict resolution!



CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, July 3rd Aiden Ring was confirmed as a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.



Helping Hands Food Pantry



July 18, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church,

Miamisburg Helping Hands really appreciates your very generous donation of \$276.70, check number 1398, that we recently received from you. We really appreciate this kind of support that you have given to our community. We are serving food to people of need in Miamisburg community. In 2021 we served 1872 households and 5721 individuals.

When clients visit the pantry, we give an average family 50 lbs. of food (more to larger families) plus bread, milk, eggs, meat and fresh produce when it is available. With your donation we will be able to purchase 1,522 lb. of food from the Foodbank. Sometimes, we need to go to local grocers for some items when supplies run short and we shop for the best price.

We applaud your generosity and are very grateful, especially since there are those in our community unable to provide food for their families. Thank you for being such a loyal donor!

Sincerely,
Miamisburg Helping Hands

Sandy Winter, Secretary

BACK TO SCHOOL

This year we adopted needy 2nd graders at Miamisburg Schools.

Each student requires the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 set of colored pencils | 1 highlighter |
| 1 box of crayons | 1 set of markers |
| 2 Expo Markers | 3 spiral notebooks (black, red, green) |
| 1 pink eraser | 2 packs of pencils |
| 3 2 pocket folders (red, blue, yellow) | 1 small school box |
| 4 jumbo glue sticks | 1 pair sharp point scissors |
| 1 pair of headphones | |

The back to school items will be handed to the kids on Friday, August 12th, so have your donations to church by Sunday, August 7th.

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)

Meeting ID: 857 1162 8176

Passcode: 071964

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85711628176?pwd=V0dOK21vekJqNTIwM3hOT2UyNzkyQT09>

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.

Budget Report for June 2022

Income for June 2022:	\$5,468.99
Expenses for June 2022:	
Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$2,282.80
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$2,363.33
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Roof Loan Payment	\$270.75
Utilities	\$278.00
Committees	\$25.99
	\$5,553.87
June Budget Balance (income - expenses):	(\$84.88)
YTD Income:	\$43,478.84
YTD Expenses:	\$35,065.14
Roof Loan Starting Balance:	\$25,377.00
June 30, 2022 Balance:	\$0.00

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 June.

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.



August 7
Melanie Ñauta
August 18
Renee Lamb
Doug McCabe
August 21
Debbie Ball
August 23
Connor Geary
August 28
Mike Ball
Sue Patrick

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 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
Beth Knight	Son-Rise Breakfast @ First Lutheran	330-692-2092



August 5
Fernando & Brook Ñauta
August 15
Nick & Page Turkelson
August 26
Richard & Robin Skelding



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 AUGUST

- August 1 6:30 p.m. WELCA Monthly Meeting
- August 2 6:30 a.m. Special Election
- August 7 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- August 17 6:30 p.m. Learning Committee Meeting
- August 21 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast

Saturday's from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Dayton Tamil Academy will meet in various rooms throughout the church.

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

Monday's & Friday's at noon - 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 August.**