



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819 September 2022

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

A future with hope!

As we start back to school and back to the routine in our life together at church as well, we certainly want to face that future with hope. We are living out our faith in hope by collecting school supplies for kids in our community who would otherwise not start their school year out in a stance of hope, but would have felt like they did not have enough to be like their peers.

We live out a future in hope when we plan events to benefit our community this fall, like Shred and Bread, our October event to help our neighbors dispose of documents securely at the same time as we solicit donations for Helping Hands, the food pantry that supports our neighbors in need for food.

Our life in hope was very evident over the summer with our collaboration with Parkview Methodist Church to provide VBS to our local kids, and also a Youth Day to just have fun. We partnered with them to make sure kids in Miamisburg got a nutritious lunch even when school was out. We gave them hope in a brown bag and hope for a better future in the fall.

But we cannot continue to provide hope for either our faith family or our community if we cannot also step up to provide leadership to point us in the right direction. We certainly have enthusiastic leadership on our Learning Committee. They are the ones who have led us into the partnership with Parkview Methodist that has benefited both congregations.

Who will step up to lead the other ministries of this church? Going forward in the next year or two, who will be the ones to lead our congregation into the way of the Lord's plans for us as Jeremiah promises?

Our demographics show that the age of our average member is going up past 65. How will we address the challenges of trying to remain vital while our members age, and we cannot manage to provide for full time pastoral leadership? Strong lay leadership is absolutely necessary in order for our community to move forward.

(Continued on next page)

Recently we have been participating in a Congregational Vitality Survey, and your response is very important. The Church Council will be using the analysis of the results of the survey to chart the course of the future of this family of faith. We are at a pivotal moment for this congregation of over 200 years. If you have not filled out a survey, please make sure you do.

The passage from Isaiah noted above continues: Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD.

The Lord promises to reward us with growth and vitality if we but continue to exert ourselves in an effort to all upon God, pray for help, and genuinely search for God.

Please consider whether you are being called to step up into leadership in order to lead this congregation into the future that God has envisioned for us!

Serving our Lord with you!

Pastor Joan



With the supervision of grandpa, two of our youngest acolytes light the candles.

Great job Olivia and Aubrey.

Dear Siblings in Christ,

September 1st, 2022

By the time you'll read this, we'll be in the midst of the national labor day weekend, a time to reflect on all workers who contribute their time and energy to their occupations, and volunteer organizations. This nation depends strongly on our workers, and a long weekend hardly does justice to the national recognition of collective gratitude. So enjoy your weekend, and thank those around you for what they do!

Thank you to everyone for approving the new Youth Protection and Abuse policy at the 21 August 2022 Special Congregational meeting. Not only will this policy apply to our activities, but to any weekly tenant/user of St John's facility if it involves minors (<18 years of age). This will include our 3 Girl Scout troops, and the return of the Tamil Language Academy. At Council's meeting on 9 August 2022, we approved the facility use agreement for the Tamil Academy for Saturday Mornings from 1030-1230. They will use all the Sunday school classrooms, the cry room, the upper room, and the undercroft. They will also have access to the Fellowship hall on a non-interference basis (that is, if someone else hasn't rented it or our Congregation has our own event.) The Tamil's will also adhere to our new child abuse mitigation policies, and bring their own Liability insurance. The school services 60 students including many grades that connect, via ZOOM, with students in nearby states. By the way, did you know the earliest Tamil written records are almost the oldest on the planet, dating back to 3000 BC? During one of our Fall Sundays, we'll invite them to spend 10 minutes or so telling us about their school's mission.

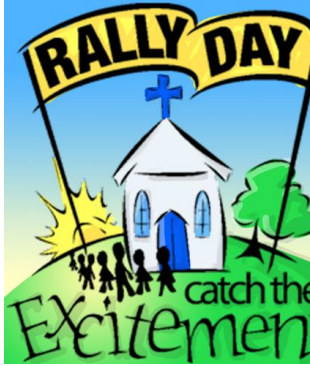
As we move into fall, there are a number of things that our Congregation needs to think about. Synod continues to tell me we are not likely to find a part time Pastor anytime soon, as even full time postings are not getting filled very fast. Sadly, many "older" Pastors who would have considered a part time call 3 or 4 years ago have quit supplying over the concern of contracting Covid. While we are still working the recruiting system, our present state of affairs using supply Pastors will likely continue for the foreseeable future. I wish I had better news for you, but that's where we are.

In addition to our "Rally Sunday" activities on 11 September, we have planned another community "Shred and Bread" on Saturday 1 October from 10am-2pm (POC The Kents) and WELCA (POCS Ida Geary and Cheryl Page) has their Bazaar the weekend of 23-25 October. I invite any congregation member who wants to assist in these activities to contact the POC's. Many hands make light work.

We will also have a fall clean out day likely on a Saturday Afternoon after the Tamil School lets out. We are repurposing the sewing room back into a classroom in the Sunday School Wing, and will do additional grounds and site cleanup as well. Watch for a date announcement soon.

Lastly, we are re-looking at what can be done to clean up and properly use the space of the old meeting house. The Trustees are principally the POC's, but we are looking for 1-2 congregation members who would like to volunteer to meet 1-2 times with the trustees to help us choose a renovation strategy. See Brian Kent if interested. Otherwise, That's it. 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



Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11th.
Sunday school will resume on September 18th at
9:00 a.m.



WELCA will meet on Monday, September 19th at Perkins
Restaurant on Byers Rd.

Please let Ida Geary know if you plan on coming.

August 21st, we celebrated all the children going
back to school with a backpack blessing.

May the love of the Lord be with them as they go to
school.



Thank you so much to everyone who supported the back to
school drive.

We gave 24, 2nd grade kits to the school system. This year the
parks division stepped up to organize the back to school drive.

In the picture are Rachel and Dana from the parks department.
Cheryl Page, Discipleship

On August 6th, St. John's Lutheran and Parkview United Methodist youth went to Youth's Dairy for a fun filled evening of putt-putt, fellowship and ice cream.





Thank you to everyone for your thoughts, prayers and cards.

Tom has been home since August 16th with a neck brace and is receiving home therapy.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Tom & Karen Settle

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 July 2022

Income for July 2022: **\$7,109.02**

Expenses for July 2022:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$3,080.28
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$3,135.77
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Roof Loan Payment	\$0.00
Utilities	\$500.86
Committees	\$156.93

\$7,206.84

July Budget Balance (income - expenses): **(\$97.82)**

YTD Income: **\$50,587.86**

YTD Expenses: **\$35,065.14**

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

July 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 July.

Roof Loan Payment: Fellowship hall roof loan paid off in June, 2022.

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

Utilities: Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



September 6
Olivia Knight
September 9
Cathy Zimmer
September 17
Garry Andrews
September 19
Judy Kuemmel
September 24
Barb Hoffman
September 27
Bernice Bowell
September 30
Sara Bell
Mai Fenwick

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



September 4
Charlie & Gail Braun
September 13
Bobby & Beth Knight
September 18
Brian & Linda Kent



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org
Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

HAPPENING'S IN SEPTEMBER

- September 1 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
- September 10, 17, 24 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- September 11 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- September 17 9:00 a.m. Area 56
- September 18 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- September 19 6:30 p.m. WELCA Monthly Meeting & Perkins
- September 21 6:30 p.m. Learning Committee Meeting
- September 23 5:00 p.m. TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
- September 24 9:00 a.m. TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
- September 30 5:00 p.m. TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
- October 1 9:00 a.m. TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
- 10:00 a.m. Bread & Shred (more info to come)
- 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy

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.*