



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

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

*Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:15-19*

One of the Bible readings assigned for Thanksgiving Day is the story of the healing of the 10 Lepers, (Luke 17:11-19) from which the above quote is taken. I recently read that Martin Luther was once asked to describe the nature of true worship. Luther's answer was, "*The tenth Leper, turning back.*" I have been chewing on Luther's response and what it might mean for us as people of faith. Could it be that the actions of the tenth Leper provide a model for how we are called to live our lives as Disciples of Jesus?

Let's take a closer look at the actions of the tenth Leper in this story.

First, he *saw*. He *noticed* that he had been healed. As people of faith, do we pause and see what God is up to in and around us? Do we notice God's healing presence in our lives? Do we pay attention to how God is actively at work in our church?

Second, when the Leper noticed that he had been healed, he *turned back*, he returned to Jesus. Every week we have an opportunity to turn back and return to Jesus as we gather for worship on Sundays. This continual returning is a natural response, when notice and see the many ways God's healing presence is at work within us.

Next, the Leper shouted his praise, he fell down and worshipped and he gave thanks to Jesus. This is what we do when we gather on Sundays. We speak and sing our praises. We give thanks for God's love and grace. During our time of worship we receive God's healing gifts of bread and wine which nourish us for our journey of faith. Our weekly gatherings ground us in the goodness of God and reminds us where our source of life is found.

Finally the tenth Leper *gets up to go*. He will go back to his family and friends. Back to the life he had before his illness drove him to isolation and quarantine. However, he did not go back the same man. He was transformed by his encounter with Jesus. He received a healing that was more than skin deep. He became a part of God's salvation story.

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We too *get up and go* from our weekly worship and we too are transformed. God's gifts at the table give us a fresh start. Fed and forgiven we begin each week freed from the sin that binds us. We *get up and go* so that we can share God's love in our families, our community and the world!

I am eager to begin this new journey with you. As we grow as Disciples of Jesus let's learn from the Tenth (former) Leper as we notice and see what God is up to in our lives. As we turn back each week to praise and worship and give thanks. And as we get up and go to live as Disciples in our day to day lives, sharing God's love with those we meet.

See you in church!

*Pastor Heidi Johns*

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## President's Chapel

Dear Siblings in Christ,

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

I have been anxiously waiting to write this column for some time now, but it's finally arrived. If you haven't noticed, the winds of change are blowing through St John's. I'm not just talking about the cooler weather and the onset of winter in six weeks, but big changes in our Pastoral leadership that I think we've all prayed for.

First of all, we briefly look back at the last year plus. We clearly owe a great big thanks to Pastor Joan Armstrong, who will deliver her last Sermon on November 6<sup>th</sup> as our "supporting Pastor." She previously served as our interim Pastor, and agreed to continue supporting Council and the Congregation whilst we looked for permanent leadership. As President, I relied heavily on her advice and judgement during this period. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have a small post-service celebration with light refreshments at the conclusion of her final service, which I hope you will attend. Thanks again Pastor Joan.

Speaking of thanks, let's not forget the contributions of Pastor Rogers Mtui who likely filled our supply pulpit more than any other of our supply Pastors. He guided us through an entire Lent-Easter season, and brought us stories from his home church in Tanzania. Thank you Pastor Rogers for all you did during the last year, we truly appreciated your service and commitment to St Johns.

And now, it's now time to look forward, and with that I am very pleased and proud to introduce our new Interim Pastor, Pastor Heidi Johns. Pastor Heidi grew up in Wakefield, a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, not too far from the shores of Lake Superior. She is a life-long Lutheran and from an early age was very active in the life of the congregation she was raised in. When she was in high school her Pastor asked her if she had ever considered going into the ministry. The suggestion struck a chord in her. She graduated from Concordia College (ELCA) in Moorhead, MN with a degree in Social Work and then attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She was ordained in 1991 and has been serving in churches ever since, including churches in rural North Dakota; Milwaukee, WI, and Glen Ellyn, IL. In 2014 she received a call to serve as Lead Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran

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Church in Cincinnati. She recently retired from Good Shepard in May of 2022. In June of 2021 Pastor Heidi married Chris Schaefer, a retired attorney who worked as an Assistant Prosecutor for Hamilton County for over 40 years. Last Fall Heidi and Chris purchased a 26' travel trailer and spent much of the summer of 2022 traveling to various parts of the US and loved every minute of it! In her free time Pastor Heidi enjoys walking, reading, exploring new parts of Cincinnati, researching and planning the next travel trailer adventure, and cheering on her beloved Green Bay Packers.

Pastor Heidi's first Sunday will be November 13, 2022. Again, we will have a light refreshment reception for her at the conclusion of service, so please plan to come and introduce yourself! Thanks to all for your support and understanding throughout this long process, I look forward to working with Pastor Heidi!

Gods' blessings to all,

*Brian*

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

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WELCA will meet on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the church.

All women are welcome to attend.

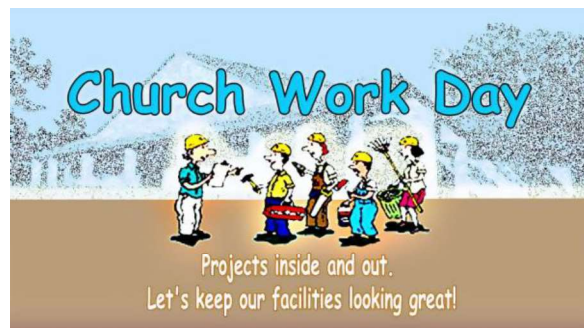
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St. John's is a polling location so there could be a lot of traffic in both the building and parking lot. Please be especially cautious if you will be on the property on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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Saturday, Nov. 12th at 9:00 a.m.  
All help that day is appreciated.







## TRUNK OR TREAT

What a great turn out and evening for Trunk or Treat! Thank you to everyone who came out and visited or participated in handing out candy. Also thanks for Parkview Methodist Church for joining us! See everyone next year!!

Big thanks to Miamisburg PD for helping with traffic!



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

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The discipleship committee sent 2 quilts and 5 school kits to Lutheran World Relief in October.

A special thank you to Gail Braun for sewing the 2 quilts and the 5 drawstring cloth backpacks for the school kits.

Next year, with the congregations support, the discipleship committee would like to send personal care kits, fabric kits and baby care kits.



### Helping Hands Food Pantry



October 14, 2022

St John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of 213lb of food, that you brought to Miamisburg Helping Hands food pantry. We appreciate this support that you gave to help us carry out our mission. We provide food to people of need in the Miamisburg community and your donation supports this effort.

In 2021, we served 1872 households and 5721 individuals. When clients visit the pantry, we give the average household about 50 lbs. of food, (more to larger families) plus bread, milk, meat, eggs, and any fresh produce we may have to offer.

We applaud your efforts and are very grateful since there are those in our community unable to provide food and basic needs for their families. Thank you for thinking of us and for being a Helping Hands donor.

### Helping Hands Food Pantry



October 14, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church,

Miamisburg Helping Hands really appreciates your very generous donation of \$1001.00, check numbers 1411 & 983, that we recently received from your Shred and Bread Event. 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 50lbs. 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 330lb 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*  
Sandy Winter, Secretary

Sincerely,  
Miamisburg Helping Hands

*Sandy Winter*  
Sandy Winter, Secretary

## SHRED AND BREAD

If you missed our event and want to donate to Helping Hands anyway via credit card, follow our "Secure Donation Link" on our website, [www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org) and select Miamisburg Helping Hands option. 100% percent of donations go to helping hands.



## 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](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org)

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



*The office will be closed  
Monday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> thru  
Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.*

## Budget Report for September 2022



Income for September 2022: \$7,882.58

### Expenses for September 2022:

Outreach	\$335.00
Staff	\$2,143.45
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,745.32
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$384.96
Committees	\$20.00
	<b>\$4,628.73</b>

September Budget Balance (income - expenses): \$3,253.85

YTD Income: \$64,087.41

YTD Expenses: \$50,862.38

### 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 September.

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

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

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

November 2  
Aubrey Knight  
November 4  
Emma Holtzman  
November 8  
Bruce Holtzman  
November 9  
Fernando Ñauta  
November 11  
Suzzie Page  
November 14  
Rose Ann Douglas  
November 20  
Steven Page  
November 22  
Brooklyn Mikesell  
November 29  
Cindy Kemper  
Hannah Settle

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Ñauta	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



November 6  
David & Julie Helter  
November 8  
Mike & Sara Bell  
November 13  
Terry & Tonya McKown  
November 14  
Steve & Renee Lamb  
November 17  
Austin & Molly Brewer



*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-T-T-F 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**

**Closed Wednesdays**

**Web: [www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org)**

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

## **HAPPENING'S IN NOVEMBER**

- November 2, 9, 16, 30 6:30 p.m. Adult Book Study
- November 3 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
- November 5, 12, 19 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- November 7 6:30 p.m. WELCA Monthly Meeting
- November 8 5:30 a.m. General Election
- November 8 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- November 9 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #30200
- November 12 9:00 a.m. Church Work Day
- November 13 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- November 20 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- November 22 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159

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

Monday's & Friday's at noon - AA Group meets 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.*