



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819 January 2023

When the Magi saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:10-12

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 and since it only falls on a Sunday every few years we rarely read about the visit of the Magi in worship. I'm guessing by the time you read this January 6 will be passed, and the Magi will already be on their way home using another road, as the story says. This does not mean that you have missed Epiphany, however, because Epiphany comprises a whole *season*, which doesn't end until we transition to the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 22, this year).

One meaning of the Greek word "Epiphany" is to be made manifest, to be revealed. During Epiphany we read stories where Jesus' identity is revealed to ordinary folks. The season is full of "aha" moments when Scripture shows, in deeper clarity, just who Jesus is and what he means for our lives.

The weeks of the Epiphany season can be thought of as a journey. A journey that begins with a star, leads to a river and ends on a mountain. The star, of course is what led the Magi to find the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The river is the Jordan River where we will witness Jesus being baptized. The mountain is the place where we will see Jesus being transfigured in front of disciples Peter, James and John. Each of these highlights of the season is an "aha" moment that reveals who Jesus is.

In between these highlights we will read stories about Jesus calling disciples and we will do a deep dive into the Sermon on the Mount. Throughout Epiphany the focus will be on Jesus and how he has transformed our lives through his appearance. There will also be "aha" moments about what it means to be followers of Jesus—i.e., leaving everything to follow him, learning that we are salt and light for the world and that our identity is grounded in the waters of Baptism.

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I think a highlight of the season for us at St. John's will be on January 8th the day we read the story of the Baptism of Jesus. On this day we will each be invited to the baptismal font to receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads, and to hear the words that we are beloved to God. I hope this remembrance of our baptism will lead to an "aha" moment for each of us, revealing that our identity in Christ is always shaping who we are becoming.

Please join us in worship for this important and enlightening season. Worship is a place where God can open us to receive one of these "aha" moments for ourselves. It is a season where Jesus invites us to "come and see."

See you in church!

Pastor Heidi Johns



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely gift basket given to me for Christmas. The Italian food theme was fun! A couple of days after Christmas Chris and I made a delicious spaghetti dinner using some of the items from the basket and we look forward to enjoying the other items soon! What a blessing it was for us to be remembered by you in this way. Your generosity is appreciated.

Pastor Heidi Johns

PRESIDENT'S CHAPEL

Dear Siblings in Christ,

January 1st, 2023

Happy New Year in 2023! Linda and I hope that you and your family find renewed faith and a pathway to your own peace, purpose, and joy in 2023. Remember Matthew 19:26....."But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with man(kind) this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

We're unlikely by ourselves able to solve the world's giant problems, but within our own community we can decide, as a congregation, where we can make a difference. Once we sort out our emphasis in 2023, I'll then ask all of you to supply the prayers and concerted efforts that make it so.

Pastor Heidi has brought us immediate stability in Pastoral leadership, and I think we can all appreciate her effusive and personal commitment to our Congregation. With her leadership, and a new Church year ahead, Council must come together and support our Congregations mission – which lies *outside the walls* of our physical church. Our community needs us, and appreciates us. What can we do to help in 2023?

First of all, where do we need to provide assistance or expand our current mission? We as a Congregation support many "causes and communities" These include:

- Alcohol/Substance Abuse – Area 56/Al-anon/AA (3 separate groups)
- The Girl Scouts (3 troops)
- Tamil Language School (65+ youth)
- Blue Star Mothers (Supports Families of deployed servicemen and women)
- Jeremiah's Letter (Supports providing free critical "life documents" like birth certificates for poor/displaced families seeking State and Federal Aid requiring said documentation)
- Helping Hands – Food/Non-Food supplements for Miamisburg's Hungry – Financially our biggest outreach mission in 2022

What's missing from this list includes community meals, absent since the pandemic. I am very sure we have the volunteers to put on at least two events in 2023. A Chili lunch? A Saturday or Sunday Community Breakfast? Chicken Noodle Supper? Don't worry, we'll plan to broaden the help, and won't depend on just a few helpers – I'm sure if we ask, we will provide (with God's help).

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Also, January is the month of our annual meeting, which is planned for Sunday January 29th after service. Council has four main items to approve this year. (1) Our 2023 Budget, (2) In addition to the recording secretary (Cathy Zimmer), Financial Secretary (Judy Kuemmel) and Treasurer (Linda Kent), we will elect 2 Council slots, one renewing (Ida Geary) and one new "at large" member (Cindy Kemper). (3) Approval of 3 capital improvements projects and (4) Approval to transfer St John's historical church documents to the Miamisburg historical society for long term preservation and safe keeping. We also have some endowment money dedicated to Special benevolence.

We'll be asking the congregation's input in our annual meeting to determine where to apply these funds. We'll also plan sandwiches and a light luncheon after the meeting, which will be the Children's Service as well. Come watch our amazing youth lead our Congregation, then stay after to approve our 2023 plans and solicitation of ideas.

Gods blessings to all, and never forget--- "with God all things are possible".

Brian Kent, President

2023 and 2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

As previously communicated, the contribution envelopes for 2023 have been delayed. Please note that when received you will be assigned the same envelope number that you had in 2022.

Contribution envelopes for 2024 are scheduled to be ordered in February 2023. At that time we estimate how many boxes of envelopes to order for the following year. A few members have already converted to paperless envelope numbers. Their contributions are recorded and reported using their electronic envelope number.

If any of you find that you no longer use your paper envelopes and would like to be assigned an electronic envelope number instead, please let Judy Kuemmel or Karen in the church office know by January 31st. We will then be able to reduce the number of envelopes ordered for 2024. Thank you.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2022 contribution statements will be available for pick up in the narthex on or before January 15th. Please contact Judy Kuemmel with any questions or concerns. As always, we appreciate your generous contributions.

Thank you to Veronika Stanichar for playing the harp during our Christmas Eve Worship Service.

And to everyone who braved the frigid temperatures to join worship and those who watched virtually.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

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/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.



Budget Report for November 2022

Income for November 2022: **\$4,956.84**

Expenses for November 2022:

Outreach	\$335.00
Staff	\$4,721.82
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$2,002.93
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$465.40
Committees	\$60.94
	\$7,586.09

November Budget Balance (income - expenses): **(\$2,629.25)**

YTD Income: **\$74,321.11**
YTD Expenses: **\$64,779.68**

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 November.

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

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

Utilities: Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



January 5
 Julie Helter
 Elijah Morris
 January 11
 Wyatt Turkelson
 January 14
 Robin Skelding
 January 23
 Ben Hoffman
 January 25
 Mike Bell
 January 26
 Nancy McCabe
 January 28
 Paige Turkelson

Congregational Contacts

Pastor Heidi Johns Interim Pastor 513-255-6279

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



January 5
 Gary and Diane Naylor



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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

Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

HAPPENING'S IN JANUARY

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|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| • January 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting |
| • January 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Dayton Tamil Academy |
| • January 8 | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 |
| • January 10 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| • January 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #30200 |
| • January 15 | 6:00 a.m. | SonRise Breakfast |
| • January 21 | 10:30 a.m. | Dayton Tamil Academy |
| • January 24 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| • January 28 | 10:30 a.m. | Dayton Tamil Academy |
| • January 29 | 11:15 a.m. | Annual Congregational Meeting |

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.*