



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

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

February 2023

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

Psalm 51:10-12

I grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula just 15 miles from the shore of Lake Superior. Being so close to the lake meant our winter days were punctuated with snow and cold. It was normal for us to receive over 200 inches of snowfall and temperatures well below zero in any given winter. I get chills just thinking about it!

Our long winters taught us to celebrate the arrival of spring. We rejoiced when someone reported seeing a Robin. We clung to hope when the sun caused the icicles on our houses to drip and the snowbanks to recede a little. We did a happy dance when actual patches of green grass and maybe even daffodil buds started to emerge.

The long season of winter, of waiting, of yearning, of germinating, prepared our hearts to truly rejoice when the earth began to be reborn.

As I reflect on growing up in that harsh climate I realize that the long winters of my youth also helped prepare me to love the season of Lent. The 40 days leading up to Easter provide us with space and time for waiting, yearning and germinating, preparing our hearts to celebrate the joy of resurrection and new life. Lent is traditionally a season dedicated to the disciplines of fasting, prayer and acts of love. It is also a season to reflect on the ways we fall short of God's hopes for us (sin) and our need for God's forgiveness and grace.

Giving things up for Lent, like certain foods or entertainment, or adding additional spiritual practices such as bible reading/study, prayer, worshipping more frequently or practicing generosity, draw us more deeply into God's story. These practices till the soil of our hearts to receive the seeds of new life planted through the resurrection of Jesus. The discipline of Lent prepares us to truly rejoice when we first hear that Easter greeting, "Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen, indeed!" To cling to hope when we see the power of death receding. We (may) even do a happy dance when those germinating seeds of promise and new life in Christ begin to emerge in us.

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We will begin the season of Lent by worshipping together on Ash Wednesday which is February 22. How will you use this season to prepare your heart to celebrate the joy of resurrection? What disciplines will you take on or give up? How will you let God till the soil of your heart and germinate the seeds of new life in Christ?

Watch for an opportunity to join a new bible study that I will be leading via Zoom or an (almost) daily bible reading schedule that you can do from home. You might also want to consider some sort of fasting, whether from a particular food or drink or from something else such as limiting time on social media, television or other "screens". Maybe the time that is freed up can be dedicated to prayer or serving others.

I look forward to being on this Lenten Journey with you and pray that we will all grow in hope and celebration when Easter arrives.

See you in church!  
Pastor Heidi Johns

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## **PRESIDENT'S CHAPEL**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Well, this note marks the beginning of my fourth and final year on the Congregational Council. It has been an extremely eventful and arduous 3 years for everyone, but somehow by the grace of God we've stayed together and moved forward. That end result is not due to the efforts of a single individual but a Congregation working together for a common purpose. What is that purpose? To spread the "good news" of the redemption due to Jesus Christ, who God sent among us to live as a human, experience the joys and sorrows of a human, all while refocusing everyone to be faithful to God and to Love One Another, his "greatest commandment".

We are about to remind ourselves of Jesus's final journey to the cross and the Easter resurrection journey, as the calendar brings us an early Lent this year. Ash Wednesday will be on 22 February, so don't miss our evening Ash Wednesday service at 7PM EST, either in person or as a livestream, as we prepare ourselves for the 40 days of lent.

February also brings together our new Council for the first time on Saturday morning February 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am-noon. We will try to plan our church year out, and lay out some strategic goals for the Congregation. If anyone has a particular topic you would like Council to work with this year, please feel free to send me an email ([brian.kent.phd@gmail.com](mailto:brian.kent.phd@gmail.com)) or call me at 937-572-3025.

For all those who attended our annual meeting on 29 January, thanks for your support of our new council members, our budget, and our capital projects. Council will keep you informed of our progress on all activities, as well as let you know when we need a little help here and there to get these projects completed.

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One other quick item. The "votes" are in for dispersing our \$4,000 in outreach from the 2022 Congregation contribution and Endowment specified benevolence funds. The disbursements will go as follows:

Helping Hands: \$1,480 (37% of votes)  
Blue Star Mothers: \$840 (21% of votes)  
Jeremiah's Letter: \$920. (23% of Votes)  
Lutheran World Relief: \$760 (19% of Votes)

I again want to thank all who have supported our ministry in 2022, and I hope this year will keep our Congregation vibrant and moving forward.

Take care, and God's Blessings to all.

*Brian Kent, President*

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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Start off your morning with some good food and fellowship.

Join us for our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Participate in the pancake races if you want to add some laughter to your day.

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## PERSONAL CARE KITS FOR HELPING HANDS

The Discipleship Committee will be taking donations for Personal Care Kits to be given to Helping Hands for them to distribute to people in need to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.



Items that will be needed are:

- Bar soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Comb and brush
- Shaving supplies
- Feminine hygiene products

Items collected can be put in the red wagon in the narthex starting Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> until Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Cheryl Page 937-602-7952.



## DIGGING DEEP INTO GOD'S WORD FOR LENT

There will be a couple of opportunities for you to dig deeper into scripture during the season of Lent. Both will focus on the scripture readings assigned for Sunday mornings during the weeks leading up to Easter. You can engage in reading the Scriptures at home during the week from a provided weekly schedule, or you can join us for four weekly sessions of Bible study via zoom on these same scripture readings (dates for study still being finalized at the time of this writing). Of course you can also take part in BOTH of these opportunities!

The schedule for weekly at home bible reading is as follows:

### **February 26-March 4;**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### **March 5-March 11;**

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

### **March 12-March 18;**

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### **March 19-March 25**

I Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### **March 26-April 1**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### **April 2-April 5 (Palm Sunday)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 21:1-11  
Matthew 27:11-54

### **Maundy Thursday-April 6**

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
I Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Good Friday-April 7**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

### **Easter Sunday-April 9**

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10

## 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.

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On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, during the children's sermon, there was a special blessing for the lap blankets, clothing protectors and walker cloth bags that will be delivered to area nursing homes or shut-ins.

Thanks to all that made the sewing items and helped to distribute them.



### 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

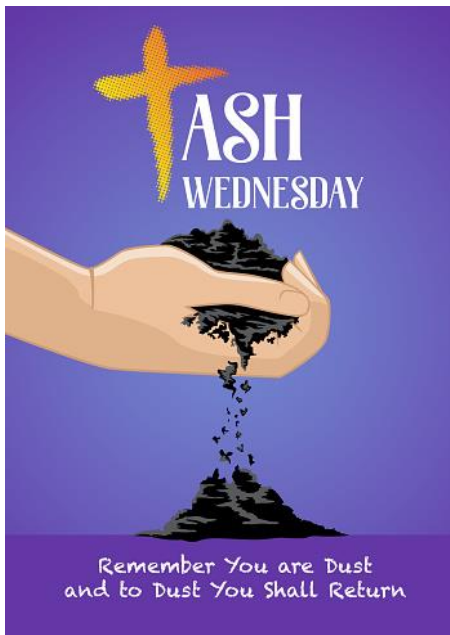
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdSEte9ZyO>

## REMINDER

You can always find the Zoom link for the simulcast Sunday services on St. John's website:

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

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



Service at 7:00 p.m.

Service will also air via ZOOM.

Check website for details.

### Budget Report for December 2022

<b>Income for December 2022:</b>		<b>\$9,455.68</b>
<b>Expenses for December 2022:</b>		
Outreach	\$333.00	
Staff	\$4,859.09	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,338.32	
Property Insurance	\$0.00	
Utilities	\$713.01	
Committees	\$32.28	
		<b>\$7,275.70</b>
<b>December Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>		<b>\$2,179.98</b>
<b>YTD Income:</b>	<b>\$83,776.79</b>	
<b>YTD Expenses:</b>	<b>\$78,550.05</b>	

#### 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 December.

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

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

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



February 1  
Allen Jackson  
February 3  
Priscilla Goldie  
Linda Kent  
February 5  
Traci Smith  
February 9  
Tom Hoffman  
February 12  
Joe Wilson  
February 17  
Gary Ball  
February 18  
Joyce Petticrew  
February 28  
Diane Naylor  
David Page

## Congregational Contacts

Pastor Heidi Johns      Interim Pastor      513-255-6279

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



*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**

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

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

## **HAPPENING'S IN FEBRUARY**

- February 2 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
- February 4 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- February 5 1:00 p.m. Private Member Event – Fellowship Hall
- February 5 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- February 8 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #30200
- February 11 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- February 14 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- February 18 9:00 a.m. Council Retreat
- February 18 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- February 19 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- February 19 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- February 22 7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday Service**
- February 25 9:30 a.m. Area 56 Assembly
- February 25 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- February 28 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.*