



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

May 2023

But Thomas (who is called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." John 20:24-25

Did you know that Easter is not just one day in the church, but is a whole season? And did you know that the Easter season is seven weeks long? This means that for seven weeks we find ourselves lingering in these wonderful resurrection stories or in stories that begin preparing us for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (which we celebrate 8 weeks after Easter). "We have seen the Lord," is the powerful testimony of the disciples and others as the resurrected Jesus makes appearances during the 40 days before his Ascension.

"We have seen the Lord," is our proclamation as well. Imagine how that testimony started with the Disciples and has been passed down from generation to generation! If even one generation over the past 2000 years had failed to live into this proclamation, perhaps the Christian faith would have fizzled out. But it didn't! Now we at St. John's Lutheran are the generation(s) who practice this proclamation, "We have seen the Lord," to help lead others into faith.

In April I witnessed the fruit of your proclamation as I had opportunity to visit with our Confirmation students, Emma, Brody and Jesse. I'm guessing at least some of you may have been present on the days when they were baptized at St. John's. At their baptisms you all made a promise to support them (and their parents) as they were brought up in the faith. It was your proclamation "We have seen the Lord," that helped shape Emma, Brody and Jesse in the Christian faith over these past 14 or so years.

I am so grateful for your proclamation "We have seen the Lord" that has helped to ground Emma, Brody and Jesse in resurrection life and in knowing Jesus cares for them. Through your witness they will continue to grow in ways to "see the Lord" alive and active in their own lives as their own proclamation is now joining ours. God is good! Thank you for the ways you pour into the young people in our midst with words and actions that reflect resurrection.

As you read this, **my last Sunday (May 7)** for my current contract as your Interim Pastor is upon us. Chris and I have been busy making our travel plans for over the summer, BUT it is currently the plan of the St. John's Council and I that I will come back again in mid-September for another 6 months. I am also hoping to do a few weeks of pulpit supply over the summer. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve you in this way, it has truly been a blessing for me.

In the meantime, our proclamation "We have seen the Lord," will continue!

Blessings,
Pastor Heidi Johns

Volume MMXXIII

Issue 5 May 2023

PRESIDENT'S CHAPEL

Dear Siblings in Christ

May 1st, 2023

I must admit, writing a column in May is often a challenge. After April's column recounting Holy Week and the Easter Resurrection, one wonders "how can you possibly top that?" Yet the inspiration for this column came easily, because on the last day of April, something very special happened. This event was not only important to the families involved, it should inspire joy and remind us of our own time of acknowledging our faith as an adult.

Of course, I'm talking about the wonderful confirmation service from April 30th, where we collectively witnessed our three Confirmands, Emma Holtzman, Brody Lamb and Jesse Ñauta, re-acknowledging the baptism they received as a young child, and accepting that our Lord Jesus Christ's love and grace will follow them all of their days!

We have, as we all know, an "older" demographic in our Congregation. I ask you now to take 60 seconds, close your eyes, and think back to when *you* took that tentative step in your own faith journey and acknowledged your faith in front of your own family and friends, and the congregation of your youth. Perhaps you had to memorize a bible verse. If you grew up in one of the more conservative Lutheran traditions, perhaps you had to answer questions about the small catechism or the bible in front of the Congregation. As I grew up in the Catholic tradition, my confirmation was in 4th grade and I remember worrying that I might mess up the Apostles Creed and Lord's prayer. I remember family coming to a confirmation party and giving me advice of how to face an uncertain future in a secular world. For me, it took years to appreciate what confirmation meant. Once the idea and concept of "grace through faith" took hold, I knew I would never turn back. So, our job as a Congregation is to provide the support and encouragement our Confirmands will need as they enter an even more secular and uncertain world, certainly in the face of increasing disrespect for our fundamental Christian beliefs and traditions.

So, to Emma, Brody, and Jesse, on behalf of the Congregation, I say "Well done good Christian." We are happy for you, we're here to support you, and encourage you in your faith no matter what. Remember, Children of God, ***you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with cross of Christ forever!***

I would like to close this column with a quote from Roy Lessin that was provided to Emma, Brody, and Jesse on bookmarks for their Confirmation Bibles. **"Just think.....you're not here by chance, but by God's choosing you. He made you the unique person you are. He compares you to no one else --you're one of a kind. You lack nothing His grace can't give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill His special purpose for this generation."**

God's Peace to all!

Brian Kent, President

P.S. My Thanks to the Confirmation and Sunday School teachers and mentors who helped our Confirmands complete their Christian Education. You're the best!

Palm Sunday, April 2nd



The annual Easter egg hunt was held on Saturday, April 8th. The weather cooperated so the children could hunt for eggs outside. There was a great turnout, approximately 40 children were here (even the Easter Bunny came).



Easter Sunday, April 9th, the altar was decorated with spring flowers.



St. John's will be holding a fundraising spaghetti dinner to support Helping Hands on Saturday, June 10 from 4-7 pm.

The menu will be spaghetti, sauce, meatballs, salad, breadsticks, dessert and drinks.

We need your help! People to serve, bus tables, and take payments are all needed. We also need your homemade desserts! Most important – come and enjoy a spaghetti dinner on June 10!

Mark your calendar and watch for details in future newsletters, bulletins and emails.

If you wish to help in any way, please contact Linda Kent, Cindy Kemper or Patty Thacker.
Buon appetito!

Miamisburg Helping Hands Food Pantry appreciates the donation of personal care items and 53 lbs. of various food items. Your generosity allows us to offer 5 days of groceries to Miamisburg School district families needed food assistance.

Cheryl Page delivered the items to Helping Hands, everyone there was so excited to see the personal care items they all wanted to come outside to be in the picture.



2023 ENVELOPES ARE FINALLY HERE

The 2023 envelopes are available for pickup in the narthex.

If you cannot find your envelopes and want a box, please contact Judy Kuemmel or the church office. Thank you."

MISSION TRIP

Parkview Methodist has invited us to join them on a trip to Red Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky, July 9-14.

The group will stay in cabins and do work projects in the local communities during the day.

If you would like more information, contact Brook Ñauta.



Outta this World VBS is coming June 19-23, 6-8pm. We will explore the awesome reaches of God's creation and God's love.

VBS will take place at Parkview Methodist, but we need volunteers to make it happen.

Please let Brook or Beth know if you would like to help.

THANK YOU

We can't thank you enough for sharing your love with our neighbors in need. Right now, your generosity is saving lives and bringing home to communities in some of the poorest parts of the world. Enclosed is a photo, so you can see an example of your gift at work. Thank you again for your love, compassion and care.

Blessing,
Jonathan Buuck
Lutheran World Relief



Annu Kumari's family has learned how to grow more and better crops thanks to your love and generosity. They live in an extremely poor, rural region of India, where families rely on their small farms for their food and livelihood.

Join Zoom Meeting on Sundays

<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

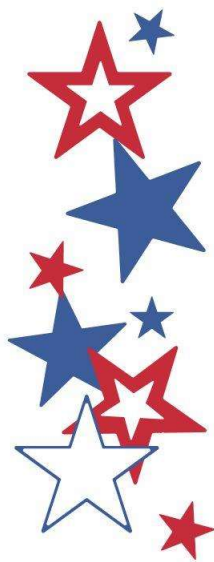
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REMINDER

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.



**Happy
Memorial
Day!**

Thank you to all our
soldiers who have given
of themselves for our
freedom!

The office will be closed, Monday, May 29th.

Budget Report for March 2023

Income for March 2023:		\$5,059.49
Expenses for March 2023:		
Outreach	\$333.00	
Staff	\$4,846.35	
Conference	\$0.00	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$713.44	
Property Insurance	\$0.00	
Utilities	\$764.72	
Committees	\$269.01	
		\$6,926.52
March Budget Balance (income - expenses):		(\$1,867.03)
YTD Income:	\$20,021.77	
YTD Expenses:	\$21,869.56	

Description of categories:

Outreach: Benevolence, special benevolence.

Staff: Pastor's pay and expenses, staff salaries and benefits, FICA, worker's comp.

Conference: Council retreat.

Facility Upkeep/Administration: Maintenance/repair and office expenses.

Property Insurance: renewed in April.

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

Utilities: Gas, electricity, water and trash services.



May 20
Delinda Pierce
May 21
Seth Helter
May 22
Debra Humphrey
May 28
Logan McKown
Paul Settle
May 29
Ursula Morris
May 31
Cheryl 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		
Cindy Kemper		937-367-2341

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



May 21
Bruce & Kim Holzman



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: M-T-T-F 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org

Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

HAPPENING'S IN MAY

- May 1 6:30 p.m. WELCA Monthly Meeting @ Church
- **May 2 6:30 a.m. Primary/Special Election**
- May 4 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
- May 6 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- May 7 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- May 9 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- May 10 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #30200
- May 13 10:30 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- May 21 6:00 a.m. SonRise Breakfast
- May 23 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3300-2023
- **May 29 Office Closed – Memorial Day**

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.*