



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

November 2023

"I thank my God every time I remember you...." Philippians 1:3

As we enter the month of November, which is known as the month for "thanksgiving", my heart is full of gratitude for you all. When I contacted Pastor Bob Abrams at the Synod Office in September 2022 to let him know I was interested in serving in the Synod on a part-time basis, I had no way of knowing that God would bless me so richly by leading me to St. John's to serve as your interim Pastor. What a joy it has been to join you in sharing the work of the Gospel.

I have been inspired by your outreach efforts into the community as you care for those who are hungry, for military families, for those overseas in need of warm quilts and your care for kids in the local school. Your graciousness in opening your church to the Saturday Tamil Language School offers an extraordinary gift of hospitality to them (as Jesus invites us to do). Last weekend you opened your doors to dozens of kids and their parents for Trunk or Treat. Who knows what new opportunities to offer hospitality will come as a result of the old sanctuary being refreshed? My hope is that your investment in that space will bring fruit in surprising and joyful ways.

I am also grateful for the ways you welcomed Chris and I into your church family. We truly felt like we belonged, which was such a blessing. To be a part of the body of Christ strengthens everyone, including the Pastor and her spouse!

You may be wondering "what's next" for me (and Chris). We have three trips planned for the somewhat near future; to Florida, then New Orleans and finally Savannah and up the East Coast to Gettysburg, PA. I have also had a very preliminary conversation about helping out part-time at another church in need of an interim Pastor. I will keep you posted! For now, I will be with you leading worship this month on the 12th and then my last Sunday will be on November 26. I hope to see you there!

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I will be praying for you and your new Pastor as you head for new adventures in sharing the Gospel. May you be open to where God is leading, and may you be richly blessed through your continued faithfulness.

Peace to you all,
Pastor Heidi Johns

PRESIDENT'S CHAPEL

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Have you ever been asked on short notice to try something new and completely out of character with your normal, everyday life? Perhaps someone wants you to try a brand new food or restaurant. Maybe you were invited to see a movie or attend a lecture on a very uncomfortable topic. Your reaction to any of these, and many other unexpected life events, is likely to feel anxious. Recent mental health surveys suggest that personal anxiety is said to be at an all-time high in the US, especially for our younger community members. Make no mistake; anxiety is a difficult mental disease to treat and manage.

As for anxiety as a whole, in Jesus's time he faced a people who were mired in anxiety. The Romans were oppressive rulers; punishment was arbitrary, swift and brutal. Church leaders became inwardly focused on obeying the law, losing sight that the people of God needed mercy, guidance, and most of all forgiveness. Actually, both the Old and New Testaments have a lot to say about dealing with anxiety, and that advice survives the test of time. For instance:

Psalms 94:19 "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul."

Isaiah 35:4 "Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' "

Matthew 6:34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own "

Matthew 6:27 "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

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Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. "

Never forget that God "gets us", and understands all our struggles no matter of the body, mind, or spirit. So, as we enter November, St John's will see big changes of our own. We'll be saying "so long" to Pastor Heidi while thanking her for her caring and dedicated service as a Stewart of our Congregation. But we also offer a hearty welcome to Pastor John Czarnota, as he joins us midmonth and begins his service as our new Pastor. I am sure we are all excited by the prospects of a Permanent Pastor, but I'm equally sure some of you may have some anxieties about the change, simply because it is a change over the known leadership of our previous interims. That's OK, that's natural. But this change will open up St Johns for growth in mission, in spirit, in our relationship with God and with one another. So as we move forward in the life of our Congregation, follow the advice of 1 Peter 5:7, which says: "Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you ".

Brian M Kent, Ph.D.
President, St John's

MEET AND GREET WITH PASTOR JOHN CZARNOTA

On Thursday, October 5th there was a small reception at church for the congregation to meet Pastor John!





SUCCESSFUL SHRED AND BREAD!

The third annual Shred and Bread was held Saturday, October 7. Donations of \$958 in cash and 298 pounds of food for Miamisburg Helping Hands were received in just four hours!

Boundless Shredding again served as our secure document shredding company.

Complementary coffee, donuts, brats, chips and water were offered to everyone who came to drop off their donations and shred documents.

Thanks to Tom Hoffman, Garry and Nancy Andrews, and Brian and Linda Kent for helping with the event.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

On Friday, Oct. 6th, 16 school kits and 5 quilts were delivered to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to be packaged up and sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you to everyone who donated.



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 7th from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.



*The office will be closed Monday, Nov. 20th
thru Friday, Nov. 24th.*

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

As of this printing, the Community Thanksgiving service will be held at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church on November 19th starting at 7:00 p.m. Watch the bulletin for any updates.



Join us on Saturday,
December 2nd at 9:00
to decorate the church for
Christmas.

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

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 September 2023

Income for September 2023: **\$7,255.59**

Expenses for September 2023:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$3,347.92
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,715.40
Property Insurance	\$438.83
Utilities	\$360.26
Committees	\$17.45
	\$6,212.86

September Budget Balance (income - expenses): **\$1,042.73**

YTD Income: **\$67,990.26**

YTD Expenses: **\$60,725.19**

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: paid monthly

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
Suzie Page
November 14
Rose Ann Douglas
November 20
Steven Page
November 22
Brooklyn Mikesell
November 29
Cindy Kemper
Hannah Settle

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 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

Beth Knight	Pre-k through 1 st Grade	937-330-692-2092
Barb Hoffman		937-859-8871/937-231-6341
Brook Ñauta	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



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

Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org

Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

HAPPENING'S IN NOVEMBER

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|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| • November 4 | 10:00 a.m. | Dayton Tamil Academy |
| • November 5 | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 |
| • November 6 | 6:30 p.m. | WELCA Monthly Meeting |
| • November 7 | 6:30 a.m. | General Election |
| • November 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023 |
| • November 18 | 10:00 a.m. | Dayton Tamil Academy |
| • November 19 | 6:00 a.m. | SonRise Breakfast |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Community Thanksgiving Service |
| • November 28 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023 |

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.*