



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

January 2024

Good people of St. John's,

I have been among you as pastor now for a little over two months. Christmas, with all the preparations, family, travel, weather, gifts, relational chaos, etc. has dominated that time! I'm very much looking forward to this next part of the church year – ordinary time!

Ordinary. It's such an extra-ordinary word. We capture the norm of our miraculous existence in that one word. What is normal? How did it become such?

For me, I've just moved 600 miles. I'm in a new house in a new community. I see familiar people – family and am meeting new people. Everything seems different, and "normal" seems elusive.

For our life together as church, normal has been elusive for some time too. The pastoral office has had many people come through, some intending to be more permanent, but all being pretty short term for the last decade. A pandemic interrupted our daily lives in ways that are still unfolding into the "new normal". Society has shifted; the role of "church" is changing.

Lord, what is "Ordinary Time"?

It is my prayer that this is the time to live into our new "ordinary". I greatly desire to get to know each of you. I ask for an opportunity to sit with you and hear your story – as much or as little as you're willing to share. I want to hear about your relationship to St. John and the communities we serve. I'm looking for the "new ordinary" that God has in store for us.

I don't know you like I'd like to yet and am eager to be about it. I don't know where God is leading us (together) yet but I am excited to find out. Please, find some time in your schedule and call me. Let's sit down and talk and build into the new "ordinary" together. I can be reached at (920)642-3363.

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I close with this scripture from Jeremiah:

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you." Jeremiah 29:11-12

Blessings,

Pastor John

PRESIDENT'S CHAPEL

Dear Siblings in Christ,

2 Jan 2024

Happy New Year again! Sadly, this will be my last Chapel Meditation as I will be passing the baton on to a new Council President in 2024. So I must begin by thanking all of the Council Members serving with me including Garry Andrews, Everett Morris, Ida Geary, Cindy Kemper, and our supporting officers Cathy Zimmer (Recording secretary), Judy Kuemmel (Financial Secretary) and of course Linda Kent (Treasurer). I also would like to thank the Call Committee, which included Beth Knight, Alan Jackson, Cindy Kemper, Linda Kent, and was superbly chaired by Julie Helter. Hiring a permanent Pastor was a HUGE accomplishment in 2023, and Council is extremely grateful for the patience and services of our Call Committee members. The Congregation thanks you profusely!

In many ways, a final column is usually a time a time to list previous year's accomplishments but I am going to purposely forgo that and help our Congregation continue to look forward. I am not worried about future council and Congregational leadership; we will have a very strong Council in 2024 going forward based on who has agreed to be nominated in our January Congregational meeting. This will include Julie Helter and Cathy Zimmer as first term nominees, and Alan Jackson who has agreed to be nominated for a 1-year term as Recording Secretary, a position Cathy Zimmer filled admirably for the last 4 years. Linda Kent (Treasurer) and Judy Kuemmel (Financial Secretary) have also agreed to be nominated for another year as well. A Big thank you goes to Everett Morris who is completing his Council term as well.

The big difference going forward in in 2024 is that Pastor John is now serving our call and as part of "getting to know us" wants to personally meet with everyone in the Congregation! Linda and I will be setting up a time in the coming week, and I am asking every member of the congregation to find some time to meet Pastor John either at Church, home, or even a

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great coffee venue. A strong Congregational-Pastoral relationship is built one family at a time, so please take some time in the coming weeks to meet with Pastor John to help him understand us and for us to better understand what a bright future we have working together with him in Christ name.

OK, one last important item I would like to write about today. Besides worship, I love coming on Sunday and talking to everyone, especially before service, when passing the peace, or after service. However, there is one time when I personally think we should all pare back our chatting and prepare for the Lord, and that is *during our Prelude*. Once the bells chime, please conscientiously terminate your chats and prepare your mind and heart for worship.

This is not only the proper spiritual thing to do, it is also very important for our musicians (myself included) who take time to prepare and play preludes for your contemplation. To be frank, there is nothing more discouraging than trying to play a hard piece you've spent days or weeks on only to have folks talking loudly in in church as if you're not there. So perhaps this is a small Congregational New Year's resolution we can agree to work on!

From my heart I thank you for your support in these last four tumultuous years, and look forward to continuing to serve with you as we walk together in the ways of our Lord Jesus.

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



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

January 28th is the backup date if weather is bad on the 21st.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR JOHN

On Sunday morning, December 10th, there was a Christian Service of Pastor Installation for Pastor John. The service was presided by The Special Assistant to the Southern Ohio Synod Bishop, the Reverend Timothy Mentzer.

An informal luncheon followed immediately after the service.



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Contribution envelopes for 2024 are available for pick up in the narthex. If you cannot find your box and would like envelopes, please let Judy Kuemmel or Karen, in the church office know.

Please note that contribution envelopes for 2025 are scheduled to be ordered in February 2024. At that time we estimate how many boxes of envelopes to order for the following year. A few members no longer use paper envelopes for their contributions and are assigned a paperless envelope number. Their contributions are recorded and reported using this electronic envelope number.

If any of you find that you no longer use your paper envelopes, please let Judy Kuemmel or Karen, in the office know by February 4th. We will then assign you an electronic envelope number to use in 2025 and will be able to reduce the number of boxes of envelopes ordered in February. Thank you.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2023 contribution statements will be available for pick up in the narthex by January 14th. Please contact Judy Kuemmel with any questions or concerns.

As always, we appreciate your generous contributions.



The Learning Committee will have a game night for all ages on January 27th at 5:00 pm.

Pizza and drinks will be provided, people can bring other snacks as they wish.



CHRISTMAS PAGENT

Sunday, December 17th we had a great Christmas play during church. Not only did the kids get to dress up, the whole congregation got to wear costumes.



Miamisburg Helping Hands appreciates your donation of \$100.00 for the families who come to our pantry. Your generosity allows us to offer 5 days of groceries to Miamisburg School district families needing food assistance.

In 2023, January through December, we served 2738 households consisting of 8537 individuals.

Generous donors like you help us provide this vital community need.

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 November 2023

Income for November 2023: **\$6,304.13**

Expenses for November 2023:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$7,167.91
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$877.68
Property Insurance	\$438.83
Utilities	\$371.40
Committees	\$196.23
	\$9,385.05

November Budget Balance (income - expenses): **(\$3,080.92)**

YTD Income: **\$83,027.37**
YTD Expenses: **\$81,691.61**

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.



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 John Czarnota Pastor 920-642-3363

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

***Executive Committee**

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

Beth Knight	Pre-k through 1 st Grade	937-330-692-2092
Barb Hoffman		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

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

JANUARY CALENDAR

- January 5 10:00 a.m. Learning Meeting
- January 6 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- January 9 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- January 14 1:00 p.m. Area 56
- January 20 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- January 21 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregation Meeting (snow date 1/28)
- January 23 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- January 27 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- 5:00 p.m. Game Night

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.*