



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

April 2024

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Easter is upon us with all of its secular trappings – family gatherings, bunnies, eggs, etc. In all the hype, let us remember how we got here... We were invited by God to follow Jesus. Jesus showed us the path of the cross. The cross is anything but glorious. It is the way of pain, suffering, humiliation and death. This is the central piece of our faith – through weakness and death, God is revealed in the resurrected Christ.

It's tempting to feel like we've arrived at the victory – Christ is Risen! – yet, what does a victory won on a cross feel like? How do we triumphantly shout the meaning of the cross – humiliation, servitude, weakness?

Yet, in this resurrection we do see Christ's victory. It's not the world's victory – not the latest political leader that's amassing power through money and corruption. No, this victory is... otherworldly. We get a glimpse of God's economy (rules of the house in the Greek) – that servitude and humility are honored above power and glory. We see love – deep, unconditional love for all, shooting forth from the empty tomb. We see a God of such power that we can't imagine – yet the meaning of that has been turned upside down.

We are still in the world of old, waiting for God to be revealed. The powerbrokers ply their trades, and the poor grow poorer while society's big deals continue to be deified. Where is that resurrection power? Yet, it's as it always has been – hidden from the world, creeping out in times of prayer, worship or in acts of loving to service to others. We can taste the feast to come, yet the feast is... not yet.

How do Christians do it? How do we survive trying to live an Easter triumph so at odds with a Good Friday world (Kill! Suppress! Humiliate!) Well, God shows us this path too. It seems we need each other. Folks called to live a life of service – to God and neighbor, called to see the world differently. Given so many "worldly" messages of might makes right, we need a

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community of folks that help us also see the world as God intended, God's love in Christ Jesus is triumphant. Triumphant, yet humble and serving. We are called to community to help us remain Easter people, as the world rages against such foolishness. We are called to be church. We are called to pick up our crosses – together! And to follow the crucified and resurrected Christ. Please, use this Easter to fortify your relationship with the church – that countercultural community of radical love for the world that God loves!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In service to the mystery of the resurrection,
Pastor John

Thanks to everyone who helped and came out to our Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd!

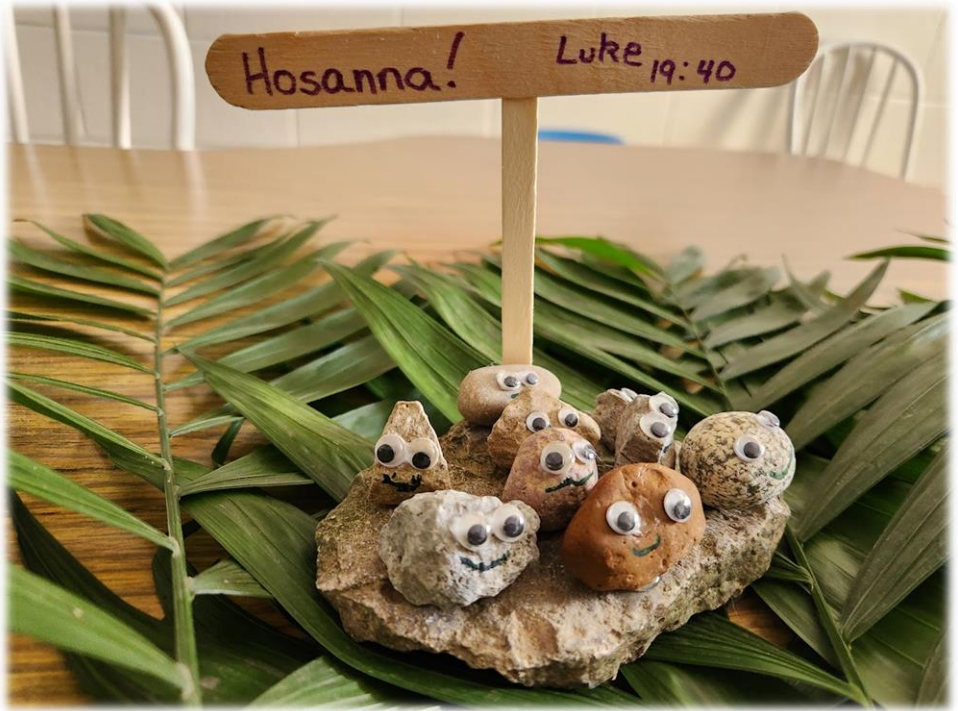
There was a large turnout and everyone had a great time! Even the Easter Bunny came to get his picture taken.

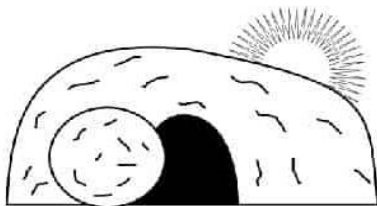




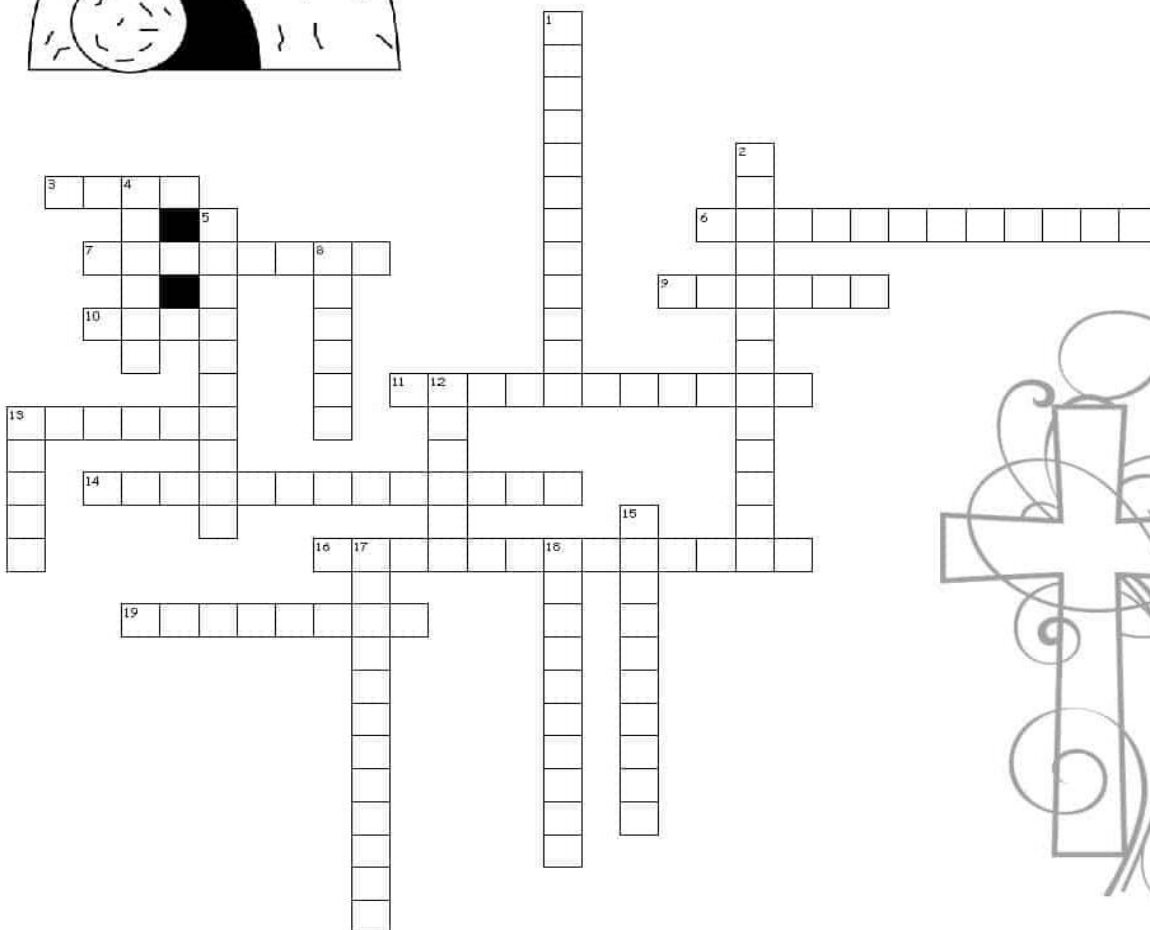


Luke 19:40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out"





Easter Crossword!



Across

3. The only disciple to stay with Jesus when he was dying.
6. How Jesus died
7. The man whose life was saved when Jesus took his place on the cross.
9. The Thursday before Easter
10. The period of time before Easter
11. What Christians gain from Jesus' death.
13. The apostle who didn't believe Jesus had risen.
14. The man who betrayed Jesus.
16. One of three people to stay with Jesus during the crucifixion.
19. The place where Jesus is said to have been crucified.
18. The day the murder of Jesus took place.

Down

1. What happened before the tombstone was moved
2. What some historians believe was Jesus' burial shroud
4. Where Jesus went after he rose from the dead
5. Mardi Gras
8. What Jesus did after he was resurrected
12. The number of silver pieces it took for his disciple to betray Jesus
13. The number of days between the crucifixion and the arising
15. What Jesus and his disciples shared prior to his execution.
17. The first day of Lent

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

Thrivent members are eligible for participating in the Thrivent Choice program, where up to \$250 per project can be requested. These projects are intended for outreach programs, not the general expenses of the congregation, and could be requested for such events and activities as the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, Shred & Bread fundraiser, Christmas Forest, School Supplies, and any other outreach activities that our congregation supports.

How can you help? Contact your Thrivent representative to see if your membership makes you eligible for the Thrivent Choice program.

If you are eligible, please let Linda Kent or Karen Doyle know so that we can create a list of Thrivent members within the congregation.

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/u/kdSEte9ZyO>

REMINDER

You can always find the Zoom link for the simulcast 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 February 2024

Income for February 2024:		\$7,431.35
Expenses for February 2024:		
Outreach	\$333.00	
Staff	\$7,171.75	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$945.51	
Property Insurance	\$438.83	
Utilities	\$1,205.66	
Committees	\$0.00	
		\$10,094.75
February Budget Balance (income - expenses):		(\$2,663.40)
YTD Income:	\$14,644.64	
YTD Expenses:	\$21,091.72	

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: Natural gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- April 1
Brook Ñauta
- April 4
Marjorie Abner
Kendall Ring
- April 6
Gary Naylor
- April 8
Brody Lamb
- April 12
Ida Geary
- April 13
Amy Ñauta
- April 17
Alexandra Bell

Congregational Contacts

Pastor John Czarnota Pastor 920-642-3363

Council Members

Julie Helter	*President	937-232-3378
Garry Andrews	*Vice President	937-848-2090
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198
Allen Jackson	*Recording Secretary	937-672-7888
Ida Geary		
Cindy Kemper		937-367-2341
Cathy Zimmer		937-212-9283

***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 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



- April 10
Ken & Sandy Yeazel
- April 23
Garry & Nancy Andrews
- April 30
Tom & Barb Hoffman



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

Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org

Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

APRIL CALENDAR

- April 1 6:00 p.m. WELCA Meeting
- April 6 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- April 9 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- April 13 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- April 14 1:00 p.m. Area 56 Meeting
- April 20 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- April 23 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- April 24 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting
- April 27 10:00 a.m. Dayton Tamil Academy
- April 28 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat

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.