



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

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

May 2024

## **Am I Ok?**

This is a profound question that I watch people wrestle with all of the time. I work with teenagers, a role that I find refreshing because, unlike adults, they haven't learned to hide this struggle successfully.

## **Am I Ok?**

We are, each of us, aware of those things that we don't excel at. Here's a part of my list: I can't sing – despite voice lessons and a strong desire. I'm not remotely handy at fixing things. I'm divorced.... What list plays in your head of things you know you're poor at?

## **Am I Ok?**

From there, it's not a long walk to start to question other things. If I can't sing- pastors sing I must be a bad pastor. I'm not handy, perhaps I'm irresponsible and a bad neighbor. I'm divorced... so I must not know how to love and succeed as husband, father, son or friend. How does your list expand from your own shortcomings?

## **Am I Ok?**

So, clearly there's some wrong thinking that can catch us up, taking the genuine things that aren't great and growing them into huge problems, creating an existential crisis. Over the last thirty years or so, our society has learned to try to counter this process. Kids through the school process are filled with positive messages, big dreams etc. Yet, I fear we teach people to ignore or deny the first paragraph, rather than challenge the move from the first paragraph to the second. There are things we aren't great at – all of us. Yet, we don't have to extrapolate those ideas until they become our whole identity. Even well-meaning advice of "focus on the good" only gets us so far. Is it okay to have bad parts? Are they too bad? Are our good parts great enough? What is the line?

## **Am I Ok?**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast." – Ephesians 2:8-9

*(continued on next page)*

"Being saved" is an abstract concept. It's about so much more than "heaven someday". It's about freedom. It's about being "OK". It's about knowing God loves you as you are, with no measuring stick to meet. Being saved is the freedom to be fully you "good" and "bad" because God has deemed you worthy... as a gift!

### **Am I Ok?**

Yes! In Christ we are freed from society's measuring stick. We are freed from our own. We are created, loved, claimed, and justified. We are deemed... OK – at the deepest level possible.

### **YOU ARE OK!**

Blessings,  
Pastor John

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Good things are happening at St. John's and I am excited to be part of it! After a long time of searching and waiting, we welcomed Pastor John to our church in November. He has been a refreshing constant presence for us since that time. Since his arrival, he has been focused on getting to know us and letting us get to know him. I have enjoyed getting to know him a little better.

We have a new church council in place, with the beginning of a new church year. I am now serving as the Council President. Your other current council members are Garry Andrews - Vice President, Linda Kent - Treasurer, Allen Jackson – Council Secretary, Judy Kummel - Financial Secretary, Cathy Zimmer, Ida Geary, and Cindy Kemper. The role of the church council, as I see it, is to take care of the business of the church and to lead the church into the future. If you have any ideas, concerns, or comments, feel free to bring them to any member of the church council or to Pastor John. We are all excited about moving into the future together as a community of faith.

The church council, along with Pastor John, are reading *The Agile Church* by Dwight J. Zscheile. Agility is the ability to move with a quick and easy grace. Feel free to get a copy of the book and read along with us. Scientists tell us that one of the most dangerous things about aging is the loss of flexibility. The less flexible we become, the less able we are to adjust if we step on an uneven surface or are bumped into by someone. The lack of flexibility makes us more likely to fall. While the loss of flexibility is a natural part of the aging process, we can combat it through stretching our bodies to maintain and even increase our flexibility. As a church, we need to continue to work on our flexibility within the context of our traditions. We should consider our faith traditions along with the needs of our greater community and see how we might need to be agile in response to the needs we see. Flexibility and agility require preparation and practice, and sometimes make us uncomfortable. Sometimes, we may stretch ourselves by trying something new and it may not work out. Zscheile calls this making "good mistakes." As we stretch our church body, we can weather some good mistakes, as long as we're agile enough to bounce back. I look forward to stretching toward the future together with you all.

Julie H. Helter, Council President



Colors of the Wind Peace Camp is back at St. John's, June 25-27, 6:00-8:30 p.m. for ages 5-18!

Based on the story of Pentecost, we will explore how the Spirit of God lives and blows through each of us in different ways, practice communicating when it is difficult and disagreeing respectfully, and connect to each other and the larger world through lots of fun activities.

Registration is available on the St. John's Website.

If you would like to help out, please talk to Beth or Brook.



St. John's will be in the Miamisburg Spring Fest Parade at 9:30 a.m. on May 18.

Come join us on the float or walking beside. See Beth Knight for more information.



# *Spaghetti Dinner* *Fundraiser*

## **Where**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
470 S. Gebhart Church Road, Miamisburg

## **When**

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 4-7 PM

## **Supporting**

Miamisburg Helping Hands Food Pantry

## **Menu**

Spaghetti with tomato-based sauce, meatballs, breadsticks, salad, homemade desserts and drinks

## **Price**

\$8.00 adults  
\$4.00 children (10 and under)



*Eat in or order online for take out*

Visit [www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org](http://www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org) for more information  
or ordering online

### 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.

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On Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Cheryl Page delivered personal care items to Helping Hands. These items were purchased using the Thrivent Choice program.



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

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



**Budget Report for March 2024**

<b>Income for March 2024:</b>		<b>\$10,398.08</b>
<b>Expenses for March 2024:</b>		
Outreach	\$334.00	
Staff	\$7,341.16	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,046.81	
Property Insurance	\$438.83	
Utilities	\$836.14	
Committees	\$244.40	
		<b>\$10,241.34</b>
<b>March Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>		<b>\$156.74</b>
<b>YTD Income:</b>	<b>\$25,042.72</b>	
<b>YTD Expenses:</b>	<b>\$31,333.06</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 monthly

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

Utilities: Natural gas, electricity, water and trash services.



- May 3  
    Delinda Pierce
- May 20  
    Seth Helter
- May 21  
    Kimberly Holtzman
- May 22  
    Debra Humphrey
- May 28  
    Logan McKown
- Paul Settle
- May 29  
    Ursula Morris
- May 31  
    Cheryl Page

**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 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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-330-692-2092
Barb Hoffman		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



- May 21  
    Bruce & Kimberly Holtzman



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 S. Gebhart Church Road

Miamisburg, OH 45342

Phone: 937-866-3780

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

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

**MAY CALENDAR**

- May 4                    10:00 a.m.                    Dayton Tamil Academy
- May 5                    1:00 p.m.                    Area 56 Meeting
- May 6                    6:30 p.m.                    WELCA in Fellowship Hall
- May 11                  10:00 a.m.                  Dayton Tamil Academy
- May 14                  6:00 p.m.                  Girl Scout Troop #35159
- 6:00 p.m.                  Girl Scout Troop #3330-2023
- May 18                  9:30 a.m.                  Miamisburg Spring Fest Parade
- 10:00 a.m.                  Dayton Tamil Academy
- May 22                  6:30 p.m.                  Council Meeting
- May 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.*