



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

November 2024

To Christians in a time of deep political divides:

I'm writing this about one week before the presidential election. I don't know who will win. Some of you may read this before the election, but I'm primarily writing to us post-election. For pre-election, I can only say – take a step back and think. Don't be swayed by the pervasive emotional appeals of dubious factuality. Do your own fact checking. Partisan sources do not count. Ask what Jesus would do. In Luther's words be "Little Christs".

Now – on to the main task at hand. The election is over. Not knowing who wins, I can still assert that more than half the country is deeply unhappy (many don't like either main party candidate!). We have been conditioned to believe that, if the other side (for both sides) wins, that the worst possible future will ensue. While I do believe this election comes with high stakes, I also believe that we need to step back from this emotional manipulation and take a deep breath.

Fear-based motivation has, unfortunately, been shown to bring in the votes. It does so by dividing neighbor against neighbor. Whatever side wins, we will be left with strong feelings against a large portion of our country. As Christians, we are not about fear (Luke 12:32). God wins (I Cor. 15:57). We have hope because of the work of God (Jer. 29:11). Yet, God's plan includes the dark of crucifixion as a necessary piece of the gospel or resurrection (I Peter 5:10). We are in dark, divided days. Please – be a voice of peacemaking (Matt 5:9). Reach out to find common ground with neighbors (II Cor 5:18-19). Despite the rhetoric, both sides want what's best for our country (as they see it). Find common ground in love (I Peter 4:8). Find common ground in recognizing that we ultimately aren't in control, God is (Isa. 14:24). Find common ground in recognizing our need for reconciliation (Rom 3:23). Our country has emotionally ripped itself apart in this election cycle. It needs us. It needs the voice of love, reconciliation, and hope, that is the Gospel. Love your neighbors – especially THAT neighbor and pray for peace. Our work is just beginning.

(continued on next page)

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." - Jeremiah 29:11

In Christ,
Pastor John Czarnota

Matthew 6:25-27 tells us that we shouldn't worry about tomorrow or focus on storing up our treasures on earth. How do we reconcile this with the human need and desire to plan for the future? We don't know what our futures hold and yet we know that God promises to take care of us. We shouldn't worry about the future, but we should plan for the future the best we can, using wise counsel. We will all die, many of us will face old age and disability of some type. If we use the skills, talents, and wisdom that God has given us to prepare and plan for the future, we will be more equipped for whatever comes our way.

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us that we should each use our gifts to serve others. We all have different gifts and our church is rich in assets because of these varying gifts of our church members.

On Thursday, November 7th at 1 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall I am excited to share with you some of my skills and knowledge when we will host an event highlighting planning for the future using estate planning documents such as Wills and Powers of Attorney as well as planning for retirement. I will lead the estate planning portion and Adam Bowling of the Miamisburg Thrivent office will lead the retirement planning portion. I look forward to being able to share some information with you all and to learning from Adam about retirement planning and charitable giving using retirement funds. I hope that you are able to attend.

Julie Helter
Council President

WELCA MEETING POSTPONED

The meeting scheduled for November 4th has been moved to November 11th in fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m.

OUTSIDE CLEANUP

Anyone wanting to help, the trustees with blowing/raking leafs please come to church on Saturday, November 9th at 9:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting this year's combined worship event celebrating Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate together the many blessings our God has done and has planned for us.

After the Community Thanksgiving service, everyone will be invited upstairs for cookies and coffee.

Anyone wanting to join in the singing of the anthem, which is "We Will Give Thanks" by Mark Patterson, can arrive at church at 6:00 p.m. that evening to practice. You can view it on YouTube if you want to hear it. We hope some of you will join us. Questions can be directed to Nancy McCabe at 937-654-4972 or email nmccabe866@att.net.





Come to the Fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. on December 1st to start Advent off by making gifts to share with nursing home residents when we go caroling.

Pastries and materials for a simple craft will be provided by the Learning Committee.



The office will be closed
Monday, November 25th thru
Friday, November 29th
for the Thanksgiving holiday.





GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 5th

St. John's is a polling location so there will 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 from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Parkview Church *A Global Methodist Community* *ELECTION DAY DINNER*

First Tuesday In November

4:30PM – 7:00PM

Adults Tickets \$13.00

Children Tickets \$7.00

Carry Out Available

RUN TO GET YOUR MEAL



PARKVIEW CHURCH
3913 Banner Rd
Harrisburg, OH 45342



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/j/85711628176?pwd=V0dOK21vekJqNTIwM3hOT2UyNzkyQT09>

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 September 2024

Income for September 2024: \$10,176.28

Expenses for September 2024:

Outreach	\$333.00
Staff	\$6,855.71
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,546.41
Property Insurance	\$479.83
Utilities	\$450.28
Committees	\$65.33
	\$9,730.56

September Budget Balance (income - expenses): \$445.72

YTD Income: \$81,860.11
YTD Expenses: \$92,424.26
YTD Balance: (\$10,564.15)

Description of categories:

Outreach: Benevolence, special benevolence.

Staff: Pastor and staff pay and expenses.

Facility Upkeep/Administration: Maintenance and office expenses.

Property Insurance: paid monthly

Committees: Discipleship, Learning, Worship & Music.

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



November 2
Aubrey Knight

November 4
Emma Holtzman

November 6
David & Julie Helter

November 7
Erin Randall

November 8
Bruce Holtzman
Mike & Sara Bell

November 9
Fernando Ñauta

November 11
Suzie Page

November 14
Rose Ann Douglas
Steve & Renee Lamb

November 20
Stephen Page

November 29
Cindy Kemper

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

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	937-654-4972
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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 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org

Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

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|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| • November 3 | 1:00 p.m. | Member Event |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 Meeting |
| • November 5 | 6:30 a.m. | November General Election |
| • November 7 | 1:00 p.m. | Financial and Estate Planning Seminar |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting |
| • November 9 | 9:00 a.m. | Raking/Blowing Leafs |
| • November 10 | 9:00 a.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #32299 |
| • November 11 | 6:00 p.m. | WELCA Meeting |
| • November 12 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #3330 |
| • November 23 | 5:00 p.m. | Pie Auction/Pot Luck Dinner |
| • November 24 | 9:00 a.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Community Thanksgiving Service |
| • November 26 | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #3330 |
| • November 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Council Meeting |

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

Friday's at 6:30 p.m.

Dayton Tamil Academy

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.