



St. John's Lutheran

MESSENGER

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

October 2024

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." – Mark 8:27-29

Who are you?

Above, we watch the disciples wrestle with the question of who Jesus is. Peter gets it "right" but goes on to show that he really doesn't get it – he objects to the crucifixion. We too wrestle with who Jesus is, but also – who are we?

I work with teenagers in my capacity as a soccer coach. In this stage of life, teens are actively "trying on" identities, trying to figure out who they are. I am... a soccer player, a popular person, a smart person, a book worm, class clown, clueless, a future doctor, trailer trash... etc.

As we age, we get another level of this question. Who am I ... now? I used to be able to.... But now I can only.... Who am I? My spouse has passed, who am I now? My kids don't need me (at least in the same way).. who am I now?

It would seem that these two questions – "Who is Jesus?", and "Who are we?" are actually closely related. Jesus is the Messiah – the son of the living God. He is our savior through the work of dying on a cross and rising again. Therefore, we can answer the second question - who are we? We are Jesus's!

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We have been saved by grace through faith – all as a gift from God in Christ. This identity is bigger than any of the labels we've put on ourselves – smart, capable, old, senile, lonely, conservative, liberal, family-connected, you name it! We are. We are because of Christ. We are IN Christ. We are Christ's. All the other labels come and go. Christ created and defines us. Christ shepherds us through life's changes. Remember who you are!

Blessings,
Pastor John

HURRICANE RESPONSE

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to Hurricane Helene and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike.

Your gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response help our church provide immediate relief, such as water, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

Mail your donation

Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Give by phone

Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Give through your congregation

Make checks payable to your congregation indicating **Lutheran Disaster Response** (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line) and place your gift in the offering plate.

Or visit the website

[Lutheran Disaster Response - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org)



GRACE-FULL RALLY DAY





RESCHEDULED -- CHARITY CRAFTING EVENT

Join St. John's Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) to help raise money to support community outreach services: Jeremiah's Letter, the Women's Shelter, Miamisburg Helping Hands Food bank, Miamisburg City Schools Special Programs and Blue Star Mothers.

Bring any craft projects you're working on and just can't seem to finish, or start something new.

Join in the fellowship on Friday, October 25th (2:30pm to 12:00 pm) and Saturday, October 26th (8:00am to 11:00pm). Come both days or just one.

There will be 6ft. and 8ft. working spaces, internet access, and electrical outlets (bring your own extension cords). Meals, snacks, water and pop will be provided.

Space is limited to 40 participants, so register early. The price for both days is \$65, Friday only \$35 and Saturday only \$45.

Any questions or to register, contact Debbie Ball at 937-776-5388 or email her at ballfour853@hotmail.com

Princess Party



On Sunday, Sept. 22nd WELCA hosted a "Princess Party". Twenty-three ladies were in attendance.

There were words on being God's daughter, a fall craft, door prizes and fellowship.

WELCA is looking forward to hosting another event of this type in the future.

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 August 2024

Income for August 2024: **\$7,813.74**

Expenses for August 2024:

Outreach	\$334.00
Staff	\$6,934.08
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,226.07
Property Insurance	\$479.83
Utilities	\$579.87
Committees	\$18.48
	\$9,572.33

August Budget Balance (income - expenses): **(\$1,758.59)**

YTD Income: **\$71,683.83**
YTD Expenses: **\$82,693.70**
YTD Balance: **(\$11,009.87)**

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.



October 1
 Daniel Kent
 Sandi Null
 October 3
 Dana & Judy Kuemmel
 Joe & Mary Wilson
 October 7
 Ken Yeazel
 October 11
 Karen Naylor
 Kim Naylor
 October 12
 Tammy Denman
 Jeff Nade
 October 15
 Paul Hamilton
 October 19
 Pat Ball
 October 21
 Tonya McKown
 October 25
 Gail Braun
 October 27
 Jim Denman

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 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
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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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| • October 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting |
| • October 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Learning Meeting |
| | 5:00 p.m. | TWIGS Scrapbooking Event |
| • October 5 | 8:00 a.m. | TWIGS Scrapbooking Event |
| • October 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 Meeting |
| • October 7 | 6:00 p.m. | WELCA Meeting |
| • October 13 | 9:00 a.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |
| • October 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| • October 25 | 2:30 p.m. | WELCA Crafting Event |
| • October 26 | 8:00 a.m. | WELCA Crafting Event |
| • October 27 | 9:00 a.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scout Troop #35159 |

Sunday's at 7:30 p.m.

Monday's & Friday's at noon

Friday's at 6:30 p.m.

AA/Al Anon meets in Fellowship Hall

AA Group meets in Fellowship Hall

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.