



St. John's Lutheran

# MESSENGER

---

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

January 2025

I'd like to share with you one of my favorite bible stories: Luke 24:13-35. It was a confusing time. Jesus had been arrested and killed. The hopes and dreams of the disciples and other followers of Jesus seemed to also have been killed. Yet, when all hope seemed lost, rumors started circulating. Jesus rose from the dead! Yet, people don't rise from the dead. Yet, an awful lot of people are saying they've seen and heard proof. Do we dare hope again?

A group on a journey to Emmaus shares their consternation. They walk alongside a stranger. This stranger seems to believe that, not only is Jesus risen from the dead, but that this fulfilled scripture and that Jesus is the Christ. It's nice to be around hopeful people, even if this group couldn't quite get themselves there.

After arriving and inviting the stranger to join them for dinner, he breaks the bread and all recognize him as Jesus. Then --- he disappears; They believe! They are off and running all the way back to where they started. Hope arrived, and in the breaking of the bread no less.

---

I love this story because it so often captures my journey. I'm walking through life. I'm pondering life, the universe and everything, and I'm wonder about God. And – often in hindsight – it hits me that Jesus has been present, leading and teaching me this whole time. This hindsight happens, often at least, when I slow down and focus on God. I share communion; God is present. The variable isn't God's presence, but whether I'm focused on it. Even when I'm not – which is all too often, God can and does break through, reminding us of Christ's presence always.

In our life together as church, this is a great passage too. We never know where we are going in life, not really. And Christ is beside us, teaching and leading us. As church, our challenge is to be ready for those moments. We do best when we don't assume we know where we are going or how the future will look. We do best when we're listening and ready

*(Continued on the next page)*

for God's presence in and among us. We'll be looking at how to be a "ready", "agile" church, following the nudgings of the spirit. It's the best way of walking, especially in times of change. We get out of the way and let Christ lead. Being agile together as God's church will be a major theme for us this year.

Blessings in Christ's surprising presence,  
Pastor John Czarnota

---



The next annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 26th after church.

Please plan on staying after worship for this brief meeting

---

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor John invites you to join an adult Bible study on Sundays at 9:00 am.

The study will explore discussions and teachings from the book, Making Sense of Scripture. Participation does not require any books or supplies.

We welcome you to join us on Sunday mornings in the upper room.

---

### **GAME NIGHT**

May the games begin!

Bring your favorite or play something new, or just come for dinner and good company on a winter evening.

Join the fun in fellowship hall on Saturday, January 25th at 5pm.

---

### **JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

Meeting ID: 857 1162 8176

Passcode: 071964

Dial: 929-205-6099

**OR**

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 December 2024**

<b>Income for December 2024:</b>		<b>\$11,538.40</b>
<b>Expenses for December 2024:</b>		
Outreach	\$334.00	
Staff	\$7,223.79	
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,013.72	
Property Insurance	\$479.83	
Utilities	\$1,125.65	
Committees	\$3.78	
		<b>\$10,180.77</b>
<b>December Budget Balance (income - expenses):</b>		<b>\$1,357.63</b>
<b>YTD Income:</b>	<b>\$120,686.15</b>	
<b>YTD Expenses:</b>	<b>\$122,905.70</b>	
<b>YTD Balance:</b>	<b>(\$2,219.55)</b>	

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.



**JANUARY**

- January 5  
Julie Helter  
Elijah Morris  
*Gary & Diane Naylor*
- January 11  
Wyatt Turkelson
- January 14  
Robin Skelding
- January 23  
Ben Hoffman
- January 25  
Mike Bell
- January 26  
Nancy McCabe
- January 28  
Paige Turkelson

**FEBRUARY**

- February 1  
Allen Jackson
- February 3  
Linda Kent  
Priscilla Goldie
- February 9  
Tom Hoffman
- February 11  
Molly Brewer
- February 12  
Joe Wilson
- February 18  
Joyce Petticrew
- February 28  
Diane Naylor  
David 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	937-654-4972
--------------	--------------	--------------



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

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

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- |               |            |                               |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| • January 25  | 5:00 p.m.  | Game Night                    |
| • January 26  | 11:00 a.m. | Annual Congregational Meeting |
|               | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #35159       |
|               | 6:30 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #32299       |
| • January 28  | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #3330        |
| • February 6  | 7:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting    |
| • February 9  | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #35159       |
|               | 6:30 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #32299       |
| • February 11 | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #3330        |
| • February 23 | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #35159       |
|               | 6:30 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #32299       |
| • February 25 | 6:00 p.m.  | Girl Scout Troop #3330        |

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.*