



*St. John's Lutheran*

# MESSENGER

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A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819      July/August 2025

I've long enjoyed looking at the meaning of words, and where those meanings came from. Here's a little etymological note on rooms in church buildings.

## Sanctuary:

The sanctuary is the worship space we use in our church building. It's from the Latin, "Sanctus" meaning "holy". Holy means "set apart for God". Thus, we worship in a space "set apart" for God. Now, that "set apart" is in its usage, not in its physicality. That is, it becomes holy in and as we use it for worshiping God. If it's used for something else, it's not set apart for that so, not holy. That's okay! We don't have a sense that "holy" is a permanent thing, only that things are holy in there usage. So – can we host a group in our sanctuary that isn't worshiping God? Yes. And, when we worship God again, it's holy again! Voila!

## East Wall:

The side of our sanctuary that houses the altar is called the "east wall". In our case, this is literally the wall on the east side. Yet, in all churches the wall behind the altar is called the "east wall". This is an ancient metaphor that started when people started building church buildings (sixth century – before that, people worshiped in homes!). In the east, we see the light coming into the world, renewing things, in the sunrise. As we worship, we look to God to come into the world, renewing things – "Sonrise." Now, it's only a quirk of English that "sun" and "Son" sound so similar, yet the metaphor for church spaces transcends language. God is light, coming into our world with hope and renewal through Christ. Accordingly, many churches are built so that their "east wall" is on the east!

*(continued on next page)*

Narthex:

Outside the sanctuary is the "narthex". A narthex referred to a narrow porch or entry way to a building, like we use to enter the sanctuary. But the original etymology is more fun. Porches/entry ways were called "narthexes" in the first place because they resembled a giant fennel stalk. Narthex is literally "giant fennel". Fennel stalks are tube like, and could be used like a funnel. In Greek mythology, Prometheus flew up to the sun and brought back fire for humans. He carried the spark in – you guessed it – a giant fennel! So, light, warmth and meaning came to humanity through the fennel. As Christians we know this to be what Christ provides for us through the cross. The vessel or means by which the "gift of the gods (God) comes into the world. We are receiving God's blessings!

Today, we use these words (sanctuary, Narthex, East Wall), without fully appreciating their story. For me, at least, knowing where they came from adds meaning to our use of them. We are "fenneled" (funneled) into God's renewing activity as we enter into a space (time) set aside for God (holy) and thus this is how are church is named.

I hope you found this etymology jaunt fun and illuminating!

Blessings,

Pastor John



## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? PEACE CAMP

St. John's Peace Camp will be July 29-31, 6-8:30pm, this year.

The Learning committee is putting together plans based on the story of the Good Samaritan.

Keep your eye out as we will need volunteers and donations, and also your help inviting kids ages 5-18 to join us.



St. John's Lutheran

## Charity Craft Event Benefiting Community Outreach Services

**Join St. John's  
Women of the  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church  
(WELCA)**



**\*\*Raffle items  
\*\*50/50 Raffle  
\$1 per ticket  
12 tickets for \$10  
30 tickets for \$20**

*Help raise money to support  
Community Outreach Services:*

- \*\* the Women's Shelter**
- \*\*Miamisburg Helping Hands  
Food Bank**
- \*\*Miamisburg City Schools  
Special Programs**
- \*\* Blue Star Mothers**

**When: Friday August 8 (2:30pm to 12 pm) and/or Sat. August 9 (8am to 11pm)**

**Cost: \$65 (both days) \$35 (Friday only) \$45 (Saturday only)**

**Space is Limited to 40 participants**

**Register by: August 1 , 2025**

**Questions? Contact: Debbie Ball at 937-776-5858 or email: ballfour853@hotmail.com**

**Location:**

**St John's Lutheran Church  
470 South Gebhart Church Rd.  
Miamisburg, OH 45342**

**\*\* 6ft. & 8 ft. working space \*\*Internet access available. \*\*Meals, snacks, water/pop provided**

**\*\*Electrical outlets available - will need to bring own extension cords**

**Yes! Register me for the WELCA Charity Event for : Fri Aug 8 \_\_\_ Sat Aug 9 \_\_\_ both \_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sit me near: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email registration to: Debbie Ball: [ballfour853@hotmail.com](mailto:ballfour853@hotmail.com)**

**Checks Payable to: WELCA on the day of the event!**

## PARK LUNCHES

We have started making and delivering park lunches on Fridays at Riverfront Park. Thanks to those who are donating, all the supplies will be in the kitchen, prep is easy, and the kids are excited to see you. If you are available on a Friday morning from 10-11:30am in June or July, please sign up to help in the narthex.

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## WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Women's Council just celebrated their 90 year of Christ-Like Love and Willing Hands.

The early beginnings of the Women's Council started as Graceworks Lutheran Services, known as the Inner Mission League of the Miami Valley in 1926. It was first formed in response to the flooding in the Ohio River Valley, and many people were displaced and found themselves without the basic necessities of life. Nine years later, they were still finding their footing, attempting to meet the needs as best they could reeling from the Great Depression and soon heading to war. A building was leased at 19 n. Perry Street to house their operations. Just one problem, their basement flooded with all their donations of clothing and household items. Enter the Women's Council. We have been meeting on the 3rd Tuesday for 90 years.

Now we support the Common Good in Eaton, Ohio. We also sew and knit items for many resident housing from Bethany Lutheran.

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## SPRINGFEST PARADE/SPAGHETTI DINNER

May 17<sup>th</sup> was a busy day for the church. Several members walked/rode on the float in the Spring Fest Parade in the morning, then later in the day we hosted the Annual Spaghetti Dinner to benefit helping hands.



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

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

## 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.

### Budget Report for May 2025

Income for May 2025: \$14,167.48

**Expenses for May 2025:**

Outreach	\$233.00
Staff	\$7,011.72
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$1,141.47
Property Insurance	\$417.38
Utilities	\$587.40
Committees	\$0.00
	<b>\$9,390.97</b>

May Budget Balance (income - expenses): \$4,776.51

YTD Income: \$47,878.86  
YTD Expenses: \$52,724.35  
YTD Balance: (\$4,845.49)

Description of categories:

Outreach: Synod 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.

St. John's receives interest each year in May from grants that were set up through Thrivent by generous members. This year the grant distributed \$4,379.06 for current expenses, which helped us to reduce our deficit by half. Weekly offerings were also up in May.

## CONGREGATIONAL CONTACTS

Pastor John Czarnota Pastor 920-642-3363

**Council Members**

Julie Heltner	*President	937-232-3378
Everett Morris	*Vice President	937-760-1099
Linda Kent	*Church Treasurer	937-885-3529/937-572-7815
Judy Kuemmel	*Financial Secretary	937-321-1198
Garry Andrews	*Recording Secretary	937-848-2090
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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	937-414-5212
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
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July 5

Doug & Nancy McCabe

July 12

Emily Bell

July 14

Pastor John

July 21

Everett & Ursula Morris

July 23

Ruby Clark

July 29

Ann Nade

August 5

Fernando & Brook Nauta

August 7

Melanie Nauta

August 15

Nick & Paige Turkelson

August 18

Renee Lamb

Doug McCabe

August 21

Debbie Call

August 26

Robin & Richard Skelding



*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)**

## **JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR**

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|-------------|-----------|----------------------|
| • July 8    | 6:30 p.m. | Council Meeting      |
| • July 13   | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 Meeting      |
| • July 29   | 6:00 p.m. | Peace Camp           |
| • July 30   | 6:00 p.m. | Peace Camp           |
| • July 31   | 6:00 p.m. | Peace Camp           |
| • August 4  | 6:00 p.m. | WELCA Meeting        |
| • August 8  | 1:30 p.m. | WELCA Crafting Event |
| • August 9  | 8:30 p.m. | WELCA Crafting Event |
| • August 17 | 1:00 p.m. | Area 56 Meeting      |

Sunday's at 7:30 p.m.

Monday's & Friday's at noon

Friday's at 6:30 p.m. during May

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.*