



MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Miamisburg, Ohio, Established in 1819 January/February/March 2026

January 2026 saw a 24-hour snowfall that exceeded the 24-hour snowfall of the blizzard of '78! The aftermath hasn't been nearly as bad, but still... snow! Lots and lots of snow! At the time of this writing (about a week after the snowstorm), people are already sick of winter and yearning for Spring. So, here's some thoughts inspired by living in a northern climate for a lot of years.

The long, cold winter gives way to spring, albeit reluctantly. When it does, Spring is more potent. Time outside is again seen as the gift it is. Verdant greens, birdsong, and other "spring things" just hit harder after a period long, dark cold. It means Lent will start, appropriately enough, in the midst of true winter. This is our long, dark spiritual time. It leads us toward introspection, and to our need for redemption in Christ. Easter will arrive as Spring looks to truly pop. Let this timing help you to feel the resurrection rhythms inherent in the seasons: The death of winter leads to new life in spring. Christ's death and resurrection allow us to see our whole life in this way: anticipating resurrection.

Spring hits better in other ways too. The bugs will have been truly winter-killed, leading to less biting pests. Poison ivy roots die out, shrinking that crop... colds, viruses etc. are lessened. This spring we anticipate better quality of life happening too. We are reminded that this also (metaphorically) is part of Christ's mission "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

So - stay warm. Stay hopeful. Our gratitude and wellbeing will soar this Spring as we look forward to hearing again the good news of Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor John



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for some fun before we move into the season of Lent, with pancakes and fellowship on February 15th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service will be on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. and will be telecast via ZOOM (see page 6 for details).

HONORING OUR NEIGHBORS FAITH

During Lent, Pastor will be leading "Honoring Our Neighbors Faith" on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Sign up to bring a snack.

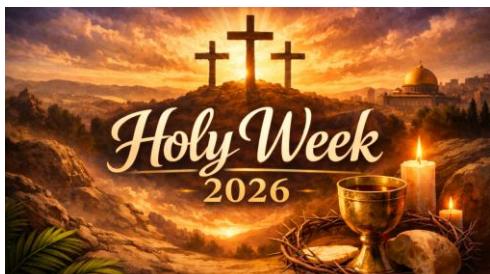
TWO UPCOMING GAME NIGHTS

There are two game night/potluck dinners scheduled, the first will be Saturday, February 28th at 5:30 pm in fellowship hall and the 2nd is March 21st at 5:30 pm in the undercroft.

Bring a dish and your favorite game to share.

EASTER EGG HUNT

St. John's learning committee will have the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Invite your friends and neighbors. Volunteers and candy will be needed.



- † Palm Sunday, March 29th @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Maundy Thursday, April 2nd @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Good Friday, April 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 10:00 a.m.

Please join us in person or via zoom for any of these services.

WELCA MONTHLY MEETING

The 1st WELCA meeting for 2026 will be at Nancy McCabe's house at 6:00 on Monday, March 2nd. Dinner will include Nancy's take on green everything!

All women are invited.

NEW TAX BREAK FOR CHARITABLE CASH DONATIONS

There is a new tax law change that benefits those who do not itemize deductions on their tax return. Beginning this year, you can deduct cash donations to charities up to \$1,000 per single filer or \$2,000 per joint return when you do your taxes at the end of the year. This deduction is a credit subtracted from your taxable income, no need to itemize. If you would like credit for your cash donations and do not have a box of giving envelopes, call Judy Kuemmel (937-321-1198) or write your name on the envelope containing your cash donation. If you donate by check your name and address printed on the check will be used. A giving statement will be prepared for you at the end of the year showing your total donations. Why not maximize your generosity and get a tax credit too?

Lutheran World Relief sent a thank you to St. John's for sending in the pie auction proceeds (\$360) which St. John's matched (\$360).



Thank you for sharing your blessings with your gift of \$720.00 to our 2025 Christmas Matching Gift Challenge. Your gift will go TWICE AS FAR — providing healthy food, warm clothing, fresh water and safe shelter to God's children who are suffering.

their heads and feel the comforts of home while they desperately miss theirs. Your loving heart reminds your neighbors that they are loved when they feel the most alone.

Your gift will DOUBLE until the match is met to help bring a little peace into the lives of families like Bageni's who are in constant fear of violence and worry endlessly where they will get their next meal.

If you have any questions regarding your donation, please feel free to reach out to us anytime at 800 597 5972 or via email at lwr@lwr.org. You'll also find inspiring stories of the life-changing work you make possible at lwr.org. And if you haven't already, be sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive updates on the impact of your generosity.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On December 7th a group from church went to visit a couple of our shut-ins for Christmas Caroling.



POTLUCK/GAME NIGHT

We had a great turnout for our potluck dinner and game night on Saturday, January 10th.



The toys that were donated to the Christmas Forest were taken to Dayton Children's Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts the hospital was very appreciative for the donation.



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

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 December 2025

Income for December 2025:	\$12,238.90
Expenses for December 2025:	
Outreach	\$12.00
Staff	\$7,737.47
Facility Upkeep/Administration	\$873.10
Property Insurance	\$472.00
Utilities	\$702.74
Committees	\$52.35
	\$9,849.66
December Budget Balance (income - expenses):	\$2,389.24
YTD Income:	\$120,915.37
YTD Expenses:	\$127,273.30
YTD Balance:	(\$6,357.93)

Description of categories:

Outreach: Synod benevolence.
 Staff: Pastor, supply pastor and staff 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.

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



January 5
 Julie Helter
 Gary & Diane Naylor
 January 11
 Wyatt Turkelson
 January 14
 Robin Skelding
 January 26
 Nancy McCabe
 January 28
 Paige Turkelson

February 1
 Allen Jackson
 Feburary 3
 Priscilla Goldie
 Linda Kent
 February 9
 Tom Hoffman
 Febuary 18
 Joyce Petticrew
 February 28
 Diane Naylor
 David Page

March 11
 David Helter
 March 22
 Brian Kent

CONGREGATIONAL CONTACTS

Pastor John Czarnota	Pastor	920-642-3363
Council Members		
Julie Helter	*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
Brian Kent	*Recording Secretary	937-572-3025
Adam Wallace	Member	
Amy Nauta	Youth Representative	
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	937-414-5212
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	937-654-4972



St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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 Miamisburg, OH 45342
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 Office Hours: M-T-T 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
 Web: www.stjohnsmiamisburg.org
 Email: secretary@stjohnsmiamisburg.org

FEBRUARY/MARCH

• February 5	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
• February 8	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #35159
• February 10	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #3330
• February 15	9:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #39996
• February 18	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
• February 21	12:00 noon	Area 56 Assembly
• February 22	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #35159
• February 24	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #3330
• February 25 thru March 25	6:30 p.m.	Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith
• February 28	5:30 p.m.	Game Night/Potluck
• March 2	6:00 p.m.	WELCA Monthly Meeting
• March 5	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
• March 8	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #35159
• March 10	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #3330
• March 13	2:00 p.m.	TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
• March 14	8:00 a.m.	TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
• March 15	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #39996
• March 20	2:00 p.m.	TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
• March 21	8:00 a.m.	TWIGS Scrapbooking Event
	5:30 p.m.	Game Night/Potluck
• March 22	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #35159
• March 24	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #3330
• April 2	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
• April 3	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
• April 4	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt

Sundays at 7:30 p.m. AA/Al Anon -- Mondays & Fridays at noon AA Group

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