

St. John's Eagle Messenger

Published by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church · Boyertown, PA

February / March 2012

St. John's History Published

A newly prepared history of St. John's has just been

published. Margaret Harner, a retired Junior High School West history teacher, has written a delightful volume to celebrate our 200 years as a congregation. She has been working on it diligently throughout our anniversary year. The book will be introduced on January 29 at an Author's Party immediately following the 8 am and 10:30 am services. You can pick up your copy in the Chapel. They are being distributed one per family. Additional copies may be purchased. Contact the Church Office for more details.

Lenten Worship

St. John's offers Mid-week Lenten worship on

Wednesdays beginning February 22 through March 28. Our 1 pm service in the Chapel is a simple service of scripture, psalms and preaching. Our 7 pm evening service features the comforting service of Holden Evening Prayer and is held in the Sanctuary. Keeping with our Bible reading challenge, our theme will be from the Book of Acts. Each service is preceded by a simple meal of soup and sandwiches. There is no meal scheduled for Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Lenten Soup and Sandwiches

We will be serving Soup and Sandwiches before both Lenten Services starting February 29 through March 28.

Meal times will be:

- 11:30 am on for our 1 pm service
- 5:30 pm for our 7 pm service.

If you would like to help or make soup please sign up on the bulletin board outside Sister Millicent's office.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Open House

Open House in our Pre-Kindergarten will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 21, 22, and 23 from 9:00 until 11:30 am and from 12:30 until 3:00 pm. There will also be an opportunity to visit on Thursday evening, February 23 from 6:00 until 7:30 pm.

Play groups are in session on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Classes for three year olds meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 - 3:00 pm.

Classes for four year olds and the Transitional Kindergarten are in session every morning. There is also a class for four year olds that meet Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:00.

Applications for next year must be received by March 15 to receive special consideration. Children already enrolled have first choice of class assignment, then members of St. John's, and then all others according to the date of application.



Dates open for Bulletin Sponsorship for 2012

The cost is \$45 per week.

February 26	March 18	April 1
April 22	May 27	September 2
September 9	October 7	November 4
November 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 23
December 24 and 25 (\$120 for all services)		

Please call Andrea in the office to secure a date.

St. John's Staff

The Rev. John G. Pearson, Pastor ext. 25
jpearson@stjohnsboyertown.org
Sister Millicent J. Drake, Parish Deaconess ext. 26
mdrake@stjohnsboyertown.org
Ranee D. Reitz, Parish Organist ext. 27
rreitz@stjohnsboyertown.org
Andrea L. Kershaw, Church Administrator ext. 23
akershaw@stjohnsboyertown.org
Donna M. Smith, Director of Youth Ministries ext. 28
dsmith@stjohnsboyertown.org
Nan R. Moyer, RN, Parish Nurse ext. 33
nmoyer@stjohnsboyertown.org
Shelba J. DiPietro, Bookkeeper ext. 22
sdipietro@stjohnsboyertown.org
Sandra J. Schatz, Membership Secretary ext. 31
sschatz@stjohnsboyertown.org
Robert McElwee, Sexton; David R. Dotterer, Sexton
general@stjohnsboyertown.org

Please call the church office when:

- ... a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so visits can be made
- ... a member is discharged from the hospital
- ... a new baby arrives in your family
- ... a member of your family leaves home for college, military service, or to establish a new residence
- ... your home phone number and / or your address is changed

BAPTISMS

November 20 Alexis Sara Buchert daughter of Joseph R and Laura L. (Sobjak) Buchert
December 11 Carly Jenna Weiss daughter of Kenneth E. and Lori A. (Millard) Weiss

FUNERALS

November 18 Gloria H. Rahmer
November 23 Mabel K. Erb
December 7 Mary Jane C. Funk
January 2 Bernice E. Prutzman
January 6 Betty M. Weber
January 11 Sara C. Johnson

General Information

Church Office Hours: 8:00 - 4:30, M - F
610-369-1024

Requests for home visits, baptisms, weddings, etc. . . contact Pastor John at x 25.

Church Bulletin announcements are due to Andrea Kershaw by 10 am on Tuesday for that week's bulletin.

Church Bulletin sponsorships are \$45 for the week (includes all 4 services). If interested, call Andrea in the church office for available dates. TV (\$65) sponsorships are also available.

Altar Flowers and Under the Cross Flowers are handled by Ruth Fisher at 610-367-7575.

Fellowship Hall Rentals and Basement Rentals are available by contacting Andrea in the church office to check the date. A form will be sent and must be filled out and returned with a check for the rental amount.

Cash reimbursement for expenses require forms (located at Church Council mailboxes) and must be accompanied by a receipt and handed in at the church office.

To volunteer for any committee, contact the church office and your request will be given to the chairperson.

For any prayer requests, please call our Prayer Chain or visit our website and a group of our members will pray for your concern. 610-369-1302

Our Church Council meets the third Wednesday of most months. Check the calendar or call the church office for the date and time that month.

Committee reports for the Church Council should be turned into the church office one week (Wednesday) prior to Council for printing and distribution so members can pick up the reports on Sundays when attending church to prepare for the meeting.

Items for the Eagle Messenger are due on Thursday, March 15 by 10 am for the April / May issue. Any submissions after that date and time will not be included. Please keep articles brief and to the point. akershaw@stjohnsboyertown.org

Annual Reports are due to Andrea by January 31 each year. Please keep your articles brief.

Book of Acts Challenge

Dear Friends at St. John's,

I would like to challenge St. John's to read the **Book of Acts** during February and March. It is a good thing to do something together as a congregation. Then we will sit down in our Sunday School classes, in Bible studies, in committee meetings and devote a little time when we gather to reflect on the Book of Acts.

Acts is the account of the early church. It begins when Jesus ascends to heaven and the disciples, now renamed apostles, have to answer the question, "What do we do next?" Jesus has risen from the dead, now what are we God's gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost then propels these timid disciples to proclaim the good news about Jesus. We hear Peter's powerful sermons as he proclaims Christ. We follow Paul on his missionary journeys and hear of the trials he faced.

Before you begin to read, **always pray**. As God to open your ears, your mind and your heart so that God can speak to you through what you are reading.

Expect God to speak to you through the scripture. God has promised to be present with us in the world through the Word. The Bible is not just a word about the past, but a living word for today. Listen for what God is calling you to do today.

As we read, let's ask these important questions:

1. *What is God doing in this story?*
2. *What am I hearing God say to me through this story?*
3. *What am I hearing God say to US (the St. John's) through this story?*
4. *What is God calling me/us to do through this story?*

Begin by reading Acts all the way through. It has 28 chapters and you can do it in a sitting or two. That will give you the overall flavor of the book.

Then each week take smaller bites—three or four chapters. I'll prepare a chapter assignment and a brief study guide each week for the bulletin. Then as groups meet, take some time at the beginning of your meeting to look over those chapters. We will add a some Bible Study groups for those who need one. Talk about what they mean for us today. As we meet, let's record the important ideas we hear and share them.

Let us listen for how God continues to call us today to be his apostles.

Faithfully,

Pastor John Pearson

PS. Look for posters called "God Sightings" and add you experience of seeing God present in the world.

Bowl, Bread & Bible **Scheduled**

Dr. John Hoffmeyer
of the Lutheran
Theological Seminary

At Philadelphia will present *Wisdom from the Bible in a World of Adverting at the Oley Cluster's annual event*. The three Sunday evening presentations will be March 11, 18 and April 1 from 4 pm to 7 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran church, Old Sweden Road, Douglassville. We break mid way through the 2 hour Bible study for a simple meal of soup and bread. Come and join us for the series. Those who wish to car pool can meet at St. John's Parking lot at 3:40 pm Get your Bibles out and join us for a fun evening of learning and discovery.

Daily Thoughts

Pastor Pearson is scheduled to Present the very brief Daily Thought in the *Reading Eagle* during the month of February. Each thought is a Bible verse and a single sentence observation about that verse.

Pastor Don Hayn

Pastor Donald Hayn,
the interim director
of Bear Creek Camp

will be our pulpit guest on Sunday, March 18 for the 8 and 10:30 am services. During the education hour, he will present information on Bear Creek, the Lutheran camp jointly owned by the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods. The camp offers wonderful summer camp opportunities for youngsters of all ages. It located near Wilkes-Barre and is a wonderful setting for outdoor ministry.



YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY

2012 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5

St. John's youth and leaders continue to participate and support The Souper Bowl of Caring (for the history of this ministry go to www.souperbowl.org) Donations will be collected after each of the worship services on Sunday February 5 as well as Saturday at Six on February 4.

Soup pots will be placed in three different locations around the church ① Parish House Lobby ② Lower Narthex and ③ Outside the Church Library.

Donations will be received at any of these locations. This year's recipient is:

ELCA Disaster Response Horn of Africa Drought

Go to www.elca.org/disaster under Recent Disasters. Check out the Horn of Africa Situation Report #3, November 2, 2011 for updates.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

2012 Youth Quake February 10-12 in Bethlehem

The theme: So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

- Colossians 2:6-7

St. John's has a group of 39 youth and adults attending Youth Quake each year. *Please remember us in your prayers! Kirstie Weller, Alison Bauman, Erika Lessig, Alyssa Dierolf, Katie Campbell, Marisa Moser, Molly Kulp, Mallory Sugita, Stephanie Krause, Melanie Reinert, Mary and April Holowis, Erika and Laura Romig, Amber Engle, Hannah Reinhard, Lauren Frey, Erika Ealy, Sami Litchert, Kyle and Tanner Lee, Ryan DiPietro, Connor Cordero, Matt Davis, Jeremy Dell, Tyler Buckwalter, Sam Kulp, Zach Bechtel, Tyler McKenrick, Michelle Weller, Bonnie Maatz, Alyssa Updegrove, Cindy Dwojak, Noelle and Courtney Dierolf, Byron Lee, Bob McElwee, Kyle Landis and Donna Smith.*

St. John's Hand in Hand Ministry Upcoming Milestones for Sunday Church School

February 19 at 9:20 am service for Second grade
Presented with "Prayers of the Bible"

March 18 at 9:20 am service for First grade
Presented with "Ten Commandments book and coloring book"

April 5 at 7 pm Maundy Thursday for Fifth grade
Milestone - First Holy Communion (First Communion Instruction is offered Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 9 am to noon for those who are not yet communing. Register at the Church Office one month in advance.)

TGIF (Teens Growing In Faith) Ministry Youth 7 to 12 grade welcome!

Mark your Calendar:

Sunday, February 26 TGIF post Quake meeting...bring it home!

Sunday, March 18 (this date was changed from March 11) - Capture the Flag 5:30 to 7:30 pm

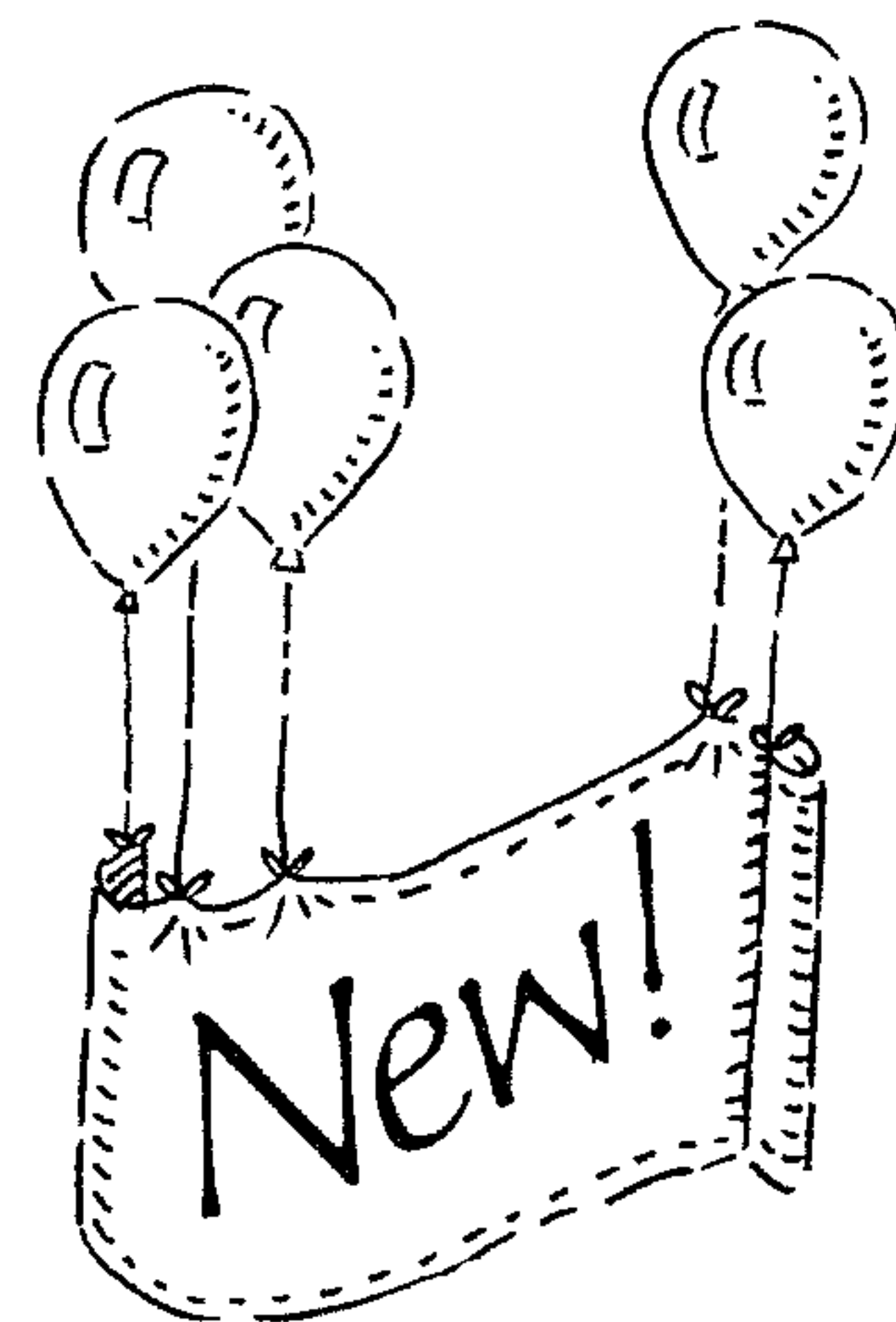
Sunday, March 25 - Labyrinth Experience and Evening Devotions (*this is a great Lenten opportunity*)

St. John's Softball Team

is looking for Players...here's what you need to know!

You need to be 14 years of age or older. You should want to be part of an awesome bunch of people that love to have FUN! It would be helpful if you have your own glove, but you do not need to have a lot of experience. If you are interested in joining us or have questions contact Denny Smith at 484-366-5047. Our team will get together on April 15 at 1 pm on our home field which is the varsity softball field at Boyertown Area Senior High School. Schedules for the regular season will be handed at that time.

The unveiling of the new library is coming soon! Watch upcoming bulletins and come visit us on opening day. Lots of new things, new events coming up and fun!



Health & Stephen Ministry News
Nan R. Moyer, RN, BS, FCN, Parish Nurse
February/March 2012

Dear Christian Friends:

St. John's Health Ministry Team thanks you for completing the HEALTHY ME surveys. Based on your responses, we have developed the following three programs for the upcoming year.

1. **Tai Chi by Sifu Phil Haddad**
3-4 pm and 7-8 pm
Every Tuesday April 10-June 5
St. John's Chapel

Registration is required.

Call Nan Moyer at 610-369-1024 x 33 by April 5

Tai Chi classes will be held every Tuesday for ages 18 to 99 years. With consideration to your schedule, each Tuesday, classes will be offered at two separate times. The first session will occur from 3-4 pm. The second session will occur from 7-8 pm. Both sessions will provide identical instruction.

Phil has served as an instructor in the Continuing Education Department of Owen J. Roberts High School District beginning in the Fall of 2010. He is presently contracted and for the Spring 2012 term through the Chester County Night School.

Phil's class is geared toward beginners. Course objectives include gentle stretching, balance exercises, Eight Section Brocade, practice and understanding individual postures. Yang Style Tai Chi is a slow moving, deep breathing and is easy-on-the-joints exercise.

To further aid in your understanding, Tai Chi is an ancient art form with a focus on gentle flowing movements, stretching and breathing. Tai Chi is not a substitute for traditional medical care.

Research suggests that Tai Chi may offer these health benefits:

- Reducing anxiety and depression
- Improving balance, flexibility and muscle strength
- Reducing falls in older adults
- Improving sleep quality
- Lowering blood pressure
- Improving cardiovascular fitness in older adult
- Relieving chronic pain
- Increasing energy, endurance and agility

- Improving overall feelings of well-being

2. **Have Fun with Gail Porter**
2:15 pm May 16, Golden Age Club
St. John's Fellowship Hall

During their May meeting, members of the Golden Age Club will delight in gentle movements to music through instruction that Gail will provide.

3. **Wellness Walk (open to all age groups)**
Sunday, April 22 2:00 pm
Boyertown Area High School Track

Following the Wellness Walk, at approximately 3:00 pm, a cooking demonstration and food sampling will follow at St. John's Fellowship Hall. Emphasis will focus on healthy eating.

*****As with all exercise programs, please consult with your doctor prior to participating.**

All HEALTHY ME programs are offered at no cost to you. Funding is provided through the medical budget of the Leaver Memorial Trust Fund.

If you would like to participate in planning upcoming HEALTHY ME programs, St. John's Health Ministry Team warmly invites you to participate. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nan at 610-369-1024.

St. John's Health Ministry Team continues to wish you a blessed, happy and healthy 2012.

Grief literature is available on the bookcase next to the Parish Nurse Office door (rm 212). Grief booklets, *Journeying through Grief* by Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Haugk are sent to those who have lost a loved one. Booklets are also available upon request. Each booklet, in the series of four, offers hope, comfort, support and encouragement.

Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, Feb. 12, after 8 am service & at 10 am
& after the 10:30 service
Sunday, March, after 8 am service & at 10 am
& after the 10:30 service

Blood pressure screening will be offered after the 10:30 service during the months of February and March. If interest is shown, screening after the 10:30 service will continue.

Women of the ELCA News

The St. John's Women of the ELCA have scheduled their meetings for February and March. There will be a "visit" from Sister Millicent at the February 6 meeting. She has portrayed many Women of the Bible during the past several years. It will be interesting to see who "visits" with us this year! Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Monday evening, February 6 at 7:00 pm. There will also be devotions, led by Annette Truman, and refreshments, along with Sister Millicent's presentation.

The WELCA meeting for March will be held on Monday evening, March 5 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. "Bells and Chimes" will be presented by church organist, Rane Reitz. Devotions will be led by Susan Laubach and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Upcoming Women's Events

NEPA Women of the ELCA invite all women to participate in the Spiritual Growth Retreat-"Kindness and Compassion" on **Saturday March 17 (snow date March 24) from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allentown.** The guest presenter is Bruce Becker sharing his story of the Nickel Mine tragedy. The day will also include workshops and fellowship. The cost is \$20.00 which includes lunch. Registration forms are located on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Registration deadline is March 3. Contact Kathy Pearson (610-367-5707) about transportation plans.

Region 7 Women of the ELCA Spiritual Retreat-April 27-29, 2012

"Angels among Us" with keynote speaker Pr. Mary Jane Hastings, Morristown, NJ and Bible Study leader Pr Wendy Abrahamson, Florham Park, NJ.

The event takes place at The Purdy Center of Camp-of-the-Woods, Speculator, NY

Cost is registration \$35 plus \$175 for double room and meals. Motel-style rooms with private bath and indoor pool, free wi-fi. Registration forms are on the bulletin Board outside the Fellowship Hall. Contact Kathy Pearson (610-367-5707) for further information.



Sign Up

Please come join us for our annual **Spring Retreat** at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat Center in New Ringgold, PA. The retreat will take place Friday, April 20 - Sunday April 22. We will be leaving the parking lot @ 6 pm on Friday and return around 3 pm on Sunday. There are 3 separate sessions:

Adults teens
pre-k and elementary students

Enjoy this weekend by spending time with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and your family. The weekend includes 5 family style meals and two nights lodging for only **\$50** per adult (weekly/biweekly and monthly payment arrangements can be made in advance). Children under 18 are free. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Parish House on the bulletin board outside Sister Millicent's office on March 1. If you have any questions please contact Noelle Dierolf @ 610-369-0254 or @ Wellie72@comcast.net

Family fun and food: **Game Day Sunday, February 26** following the 10:30 Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. We will be playing **Family Feud**. Bring a snack to share for our chili and hotdog lunch, provided by the Fellowship Committee. A signup sheet will be placed in the Parish House on the bulletin board outside Sister Millicent's office February 1. If you have any questions please contact Noelle Dierolf @ 610-369-0254 or @ Wellie72@comcast.net

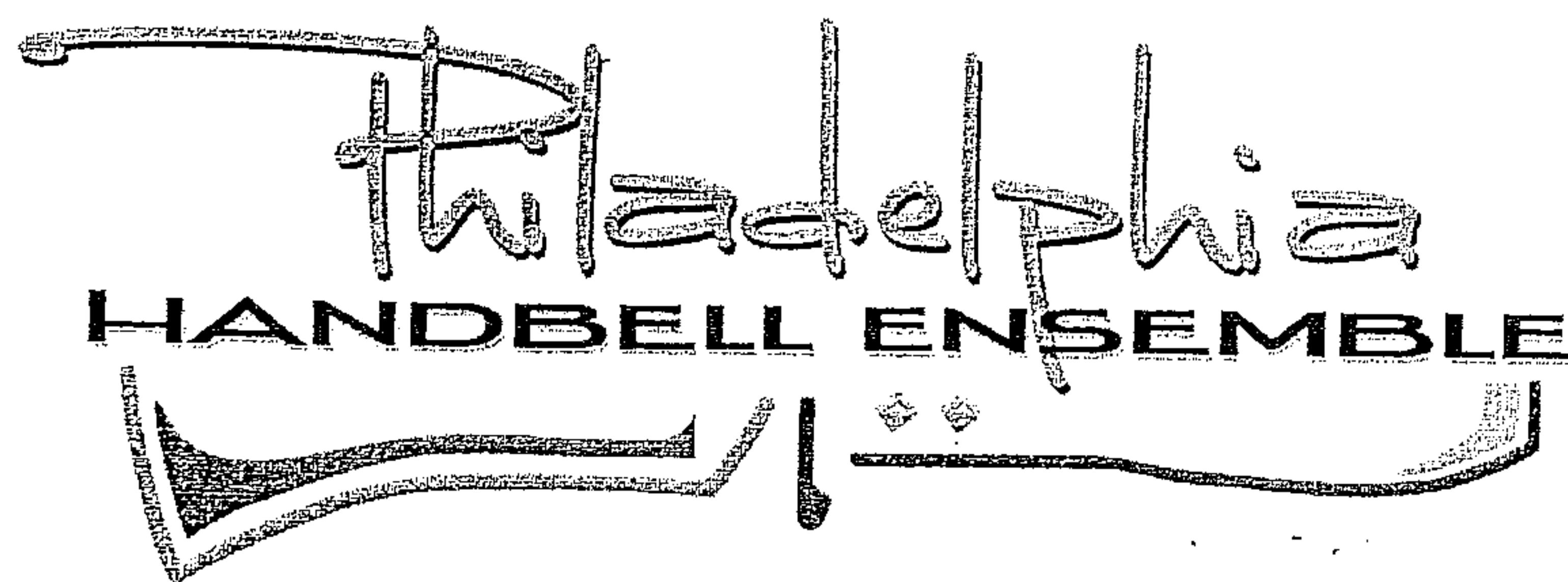
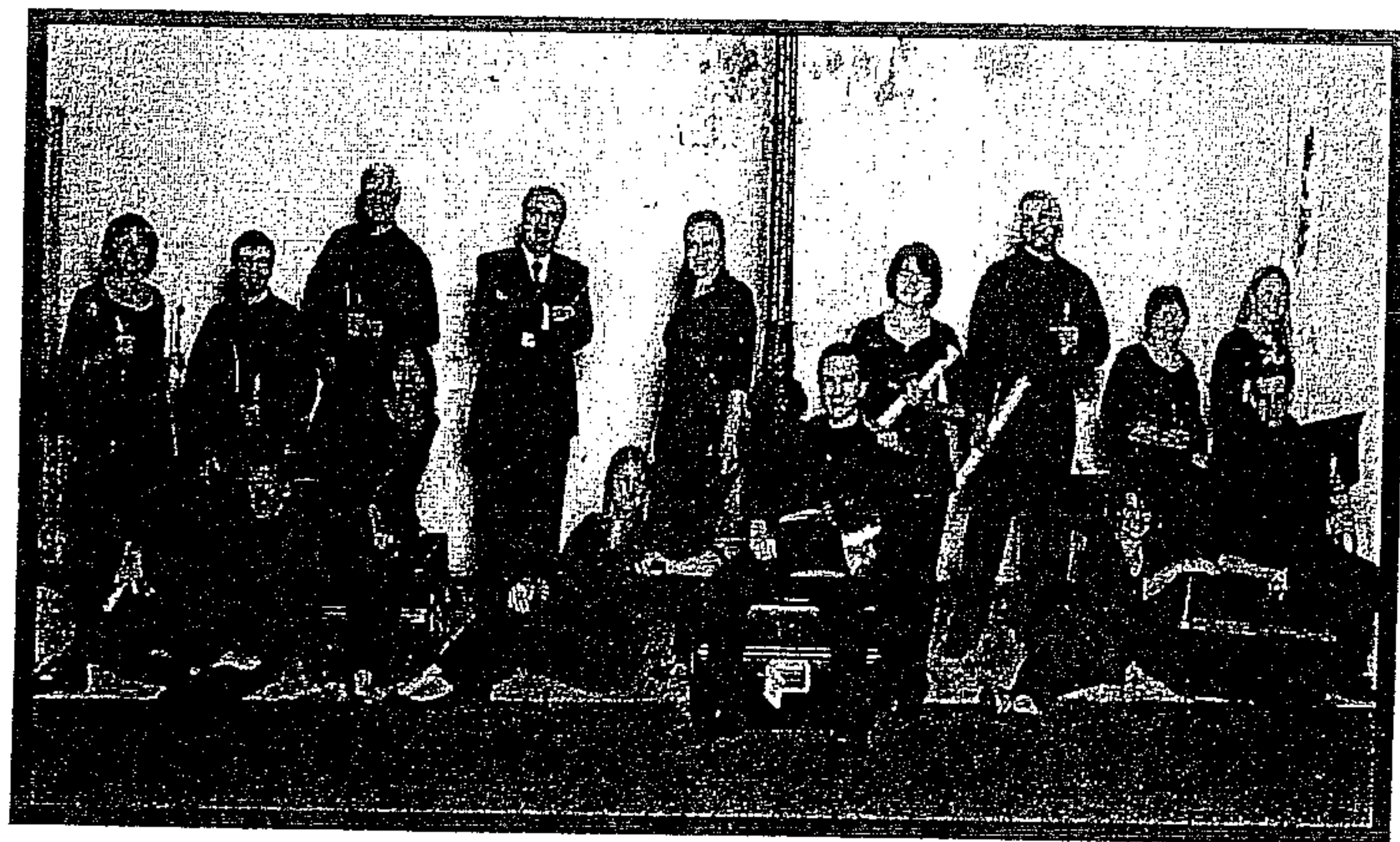
Save the Dates:

- Sunday May 13—**Mother's Day coffee hour**
- **Girls' Night Out:** info in the next Eagle Messenger
- Sunday June 17—**Father's Day coffee hour**
- Sunday June 10 at noon our annual Church picnic (**please note the picnic has been moved to a Sunday**) and we will be closing the picnic at 5 pm with a small blessing service and Driver's License Milestone
- Tuesday June 26--trip to reading Phillies

Living With Loss Grief Support Group

When someone we love dies, we often feel overwhelmed, frightened and lonely. Sharing our thoughts and feelings with others who have experienced a loss can alleviate our sense of aloneness and can give us much-needed encouragement.

On Monday evenings, March 19 to April 30, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, a six-week grief support group will meet at the Parish of St. Columbkille in Boyertown, PA. (There will be no group session April 9th.) Led by a counseling professional, the group will share experiences and coping strategies. This group is sponsored by Morrell Funeral Home and is free to participants. Advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Diakon Family Life Services at 610-682-1337 or 1-888-499-2699 (toll free).



ONE PASSION. ONE STRIKE. ONE SOUND.

On Sunday March 11 the Music and Fine Arts Committee will present the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble. The 4:00 pm concert will feature this fourteen member group of dedicated and seasoned ringers. They ring seven octaves of Schulmerich Bells and five octaves of chimes. They also use an additional four octave set of bells for doubling sound. A large number of percussion instruments and a five-octave set of Dutch Petit and Fritsen bells round out the ensemble's artistic presentation.

Refreshments will be served following the concert. Please join us for an exciting afternoon of music.



The Social/Outreach Committee thanks you for your support.

Food on the First - ongoing with monthly delivery

Non-perishable items are delivered to the Boyertown Multi-Service and the Boyertown Salvation Army on a rotating monthly basis, with the exception of the month of October, when our church continues the tradition of supporting the Lutheran Pantry through the Harvest Home program.

The Food on the First program was established more than two years ago. We are overjoyed at your continuing support and generosity of this program, as we strive to help these organizations meet the needs in our community.

Operation Helping Hands - November Leaf Raking

Thank you to those who were able to rake. We had some very nice days to be outside, and we made a few senior members of our congregation very happy.

Angel Tree Program - December

This year you helped to put a smile on local children's faces Christmas morning. Your generosity of Christmas presents was much appreciated by families who benefit from assistance through the Boyertown Multi-Service. The day I dropped off the presents, I met a mother who was in tears, she was so overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers.

She asked me to thank you for her; I said I certainly would do that for her.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
45 North Reading Avenue
Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512-1009

Telephone 610.369.1024
FAX: 610.369.1463
Prayer: 610.369.1302
PrayerRequests@stjohnsboyertown.org
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www.STJOHNSBOYERTOWN.ORG

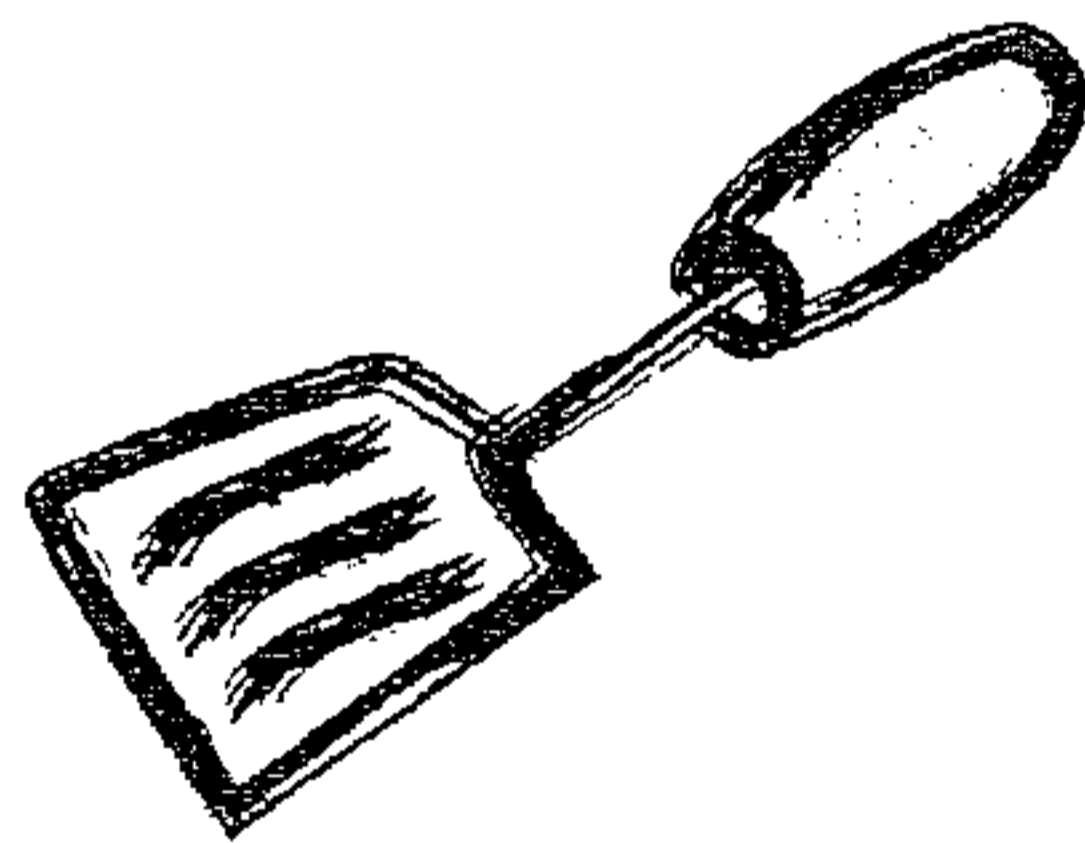
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship
8:00, 9:20 & 10:30 am
Sunday Church School 9:15 am
Saturday at Six 6:00 pm

Church Office Hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
(Monday through Friday)

Non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOYERTOWN, PA
Permit No. 20

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Spatula Club Booster

Yes, I want to support the Youth and Family Ministry of St. John's by donating \$5 to the St. John's BREAKFAST BUFFET.

Checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church
On the line below print the name you would like to appear on the SPATULA BOOSTER SHEET.

Thank you for your support.
Please fill out and hand in along with \$5 to the church office before March 3.

DATED MATERIAL—MAILED January 25, 2012

2012
Saturday
March 3
OPEN TO PUBLIC!
Take-outs Available

**ST. JOHN'S
BREAKFAST
BUFFET**
ALL YOU CAN EAT

For the Early Risers...
**BAKED
OATMEAL**
Also available...
**GLUTEN-FREE
PANCAKES**

Saturday, March 3 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- Scrambled Eggs
- Egg Beaters
- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Scrapple
- Homefries
- Grilled Sticky Buns
- Variety of Juices
- White and Chocolate Milk
- Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, Hot Chocolate

BREAKFAST TICKET PRICES:
Adult - \$7.50

Children Under 12/Senior Citizens - \$5.00

For Information Call 610-369-1024

St. John's Lutheran Church
45 North Reading Avenue, Boyertown

Proceeds Benefit St. John's Youth & Family Ministries