

What will drive, motivate, nudge or encourage you to take the journey of a lifetime this Lenten season? Is there anything I can do to help? I will walk with you, sit with you, pray with you, pray for you...If I am able, it's yours!

The day I began ministry with you, I received the following note from my prayer partner of over two decades, my mentor, teacher, colleague and my dear friend. They have since departed this life with the sign of faith and now celebrate all they taught about the One in whose presence they now share eternity.

"Our powerlessness to do anything without the continuing assistance of God is unquestionable, yet you and I daily behave as if this is not true. We move from task to task, sure of our abilities to accomplish them without any help from God. Consider a short prayer of only four words that's borrowed from a courtroom of law: "So help me, God." This traditional conclusion to an oath of truthfulness by a witness, which includes placing your hand on the Bible, can be an ideal prayer reminder. This short hands-on prayer has great possibilities for awakening you to an essential and undeniable reality: your absolute dependence upon God.

"So help me, God" is the prayerful plea of the needy. "So help me, God" is a cry from the depths. "So help me, God" is the cry of the impotent. "So help me, God" is prayer testimony to tell the whole truth by living the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth."

Dear child of God, it is time now, with more intentionality than ever before, that you pursue with passionate discipline, the deepest love of all. In God you will experience life like you've never experienced and love far beyond anything you can imagine. You are invited, during Lent (always), to take this journey with great expectation to believe the unbelievable, receive the inconceivable and see beyond your wildest imagination!

Be blessed!  
Pastor Bob



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# 2021 PRAYER VIGIL

By: Roslyn Moatz, Prayer Ministry Leader

Did you know Christ is waiting to hear from you? Please join us in the Prayer Vigil. His ear is always in tune to hear Your voice calling to Him in prayer.

A prayer vigil is a time to bring light to brokenness in society. Something we can certainly relate to right now. It's an act of prayer, witness and connection with God, so that God's vision for love and justice can be carried out through us.

As we did last year, we'll be seeking a new dimension of prayer. Again, we probably will not be able to enter our church or kneel before our altar or in the pew. So here is what we are asking you to do in 2021. We are inviting a fresh breeze from the Holy Spirit to join us as we commit to pray in our homes. This is your invitation. **We are asking everyone receiving and reading this message, to commit to just 15 minutes or more of prayer, sometime between the start of Maundy Thursday and the end of day, Good Friday.**

Let's look back at what was going on with Jesus during those days.

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus was washing the feet of His disciples as an act of teaching them to be servants. He also invited them to sit with him and eat. Little did they know it would be his last meal. He broke bread and shared wine, while he taught them that these were the representation of His Body and Blood. We know this as the Last Supper, The Eucharist or Holy Communion. This was also the evening, when as predicted by him, (Matthew 26:21) and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me," and Judas did in the garden that night.

The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for "command" and refers to John 13:34 where Jesus said to His disciples; "A new command I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Good Friday. What was so good about this dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus? Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to resurrection, our salvation and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace.

1 Corinthians 15:3 shares the story of the crucifixion of Jesus and His death at Calvary. He was arrested, beaten, whipped, mocked and nailed to the cross. It was a decisive turning point for all creation, Jesus willingly suffered and died as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10).

Just as with Jesus, what burdens was He carrying and how do they relate back to our experiences with COVID 19? This virus, which could be compared to the crown of thorns forced on his head. He had no choice and he was put in a position he had no control over. It caused him much pain, just as we have no control and it causes us uncertainty as they continue to find new patients testing positive, daily. It leaves us with feelings of anxiety, urgency and intensity. We are told: wash your hands; wear a mask – everywhere you go; stay home if you're sick; stay home if you're not sick; don't be a hoarder, share what you have; cancel

gatherings; there are many new procedures at schools; don't go to work if you can work from home! It is causing stress for all, in one way or another. It leaves some isolated, depressed, fearful and lonely.

Children of God, go to the Lord and pray. Call out to our loving Father. He is listening! Praise His Holy name! Acknowledge His coming Kingdom. Humble yourself and acknowledge your sinful nature and that His will is above yours. Ask for your daily needs to be met. Ask for forgiveness and to help you forgive others. Ask for God's protection from evil. Acknowledge God's authority and power. And end your prayer with Praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

1 John 5:14-15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him."

Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Psalms 66:17-20 says "I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened, but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!"

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## REFLECTIONS ON MY TIME WITH PRESCHOOL

By: Vicky Henry

When I was hired in a teaching position, I had the good fortune to work with Missy Endy in the mornings and Dawn Melcher in the afternoons. Both women were exemplary in helping me to achieve the best possible outcomes with our children. They were not only my co-workers, but also my friends.

For those of you who know me, you know that I am constantly thinking. While I was happy working/teaching four year-olds, my thoughts went back to when my daughter was two. I was a stay-at-home mom. Megan could have used socialization. My mind began to go into overdrive. I approached Sister Millicent, the Director, with an idea to begin a 'two year-old play group'. She wasn't too sure of what that entailed, but finally agreed to try it. The first year, we had 2 classes of 8 children each. There was increased interest, so we started a third class on Friday afternoons. My fondest memory was a father who became my most trusted volunteer. He was always available to come in to help me—and the kids loved him.

Most recently, we have had a grandfather who became our most trusted volunteer in the Play Group, that has continued for all these years. He even became our Santa for a few years!

I know now that God has continually pushed me to grow our preschool. Even though there are times that I get frustrated, he is constantly urging me to continue what I know we need. Stay tuned for more of how God prompted me with new ideas!

## COUNCIL CONNECTION

By: Jen Friz, Congregation Council President

Shifting, changing, transitioning and transforming are all words that have been used to describe what many of us desire, and we believe is God's plan, for the congregation at St. John's. For some long-time members this may bring excitement and anticipation of what God has in store for us, while others may be content with that status quo and thoughts of this "change" may trigger anger, frustration, or fear for what is to come.

The Paradoxical Theory of Change was described at a recent Congregation Council meeting as we were discussing how to move forward at St. John's. Simply put, this theory says: change happens when one becomes more of who they are and let's go of trying to become someone they are not. Clearly this theory is a paradox, because it doesn't really describe what we think of as change which is defined as making something different, sometimes radically different. But this theory is consistent with many other strategies of self-improvement which emphasize the focus on one's strengths and utilizing those to the fullest, instead of focusing on weaknesses - sounds like Be, See, Do. Sometimes becoming more of who we are, and letting go of what we're trying to be can look like a shift, change, transition or transformation to outside observers, while the core of who we are is still the same.

One ministry that has been a strength of St. John's in the last year is Come to the Table. While we were paused during the start of the pandemic, we've adapted this ministry and are currently serving over 130 hot meals out of our Fellowship Hall back door on a Saturday night. As this ministry kicked off in early 2020, it is one in which dozens of members of all ages have volunteered to serve. I believe the heart of this ministry is loving our neighbor, which we accomplish by working side-by-side with other members and getting to know them while we serve hot meals to members of our community. I look forward to the time when we are past the restrictions of the pandemic and we can more easily share in conversation and better get to know our neighbors in the warmth of our Fellowship Hall, instead of through a car window, behind masks.

I believe that service and love of God, one another, and our neighbors is the strength of St. John's congregation and that, as a part of God's plan, our work in 2021 and beyond should focus on and enhance that strength. Our leaders desire to help our congregation gain a deeper understanding of scripture and are committed to learning more about others, those within our congregation as well as those outside our membership who might be different. This will be reflected in the opportunities offered to our congregation and community throughout the year.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul describes how important it is to serve and be generous in the name of Christ as it praises God and builds up the body of Christ:

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourself, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)*

**TO RECEIVE A PRINTED COPY OF THE  
ANNUAL CONGREGATION REPORT  
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.  
610.369.1024**



Please join us for a Spring Cleanup Day! We will be cleaning inside and outside our building with our eyes open for opportunities for improvements. We will follow social distancing guidelines and masks will be required. Please register your attendance on our website.

St. John's will provide donuts and coffee along with inside cleaning supplies. Please bring your own rakes and shovels for outdoor cleanup.

Thank you for your support in keeping our facility a beautiful place to serve and worship God!

## FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING

- As a parent, do you believe your child is capable of understanding why we receive Holy Communion?
- Are you interested in learning more about why we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion?
- Would you like a refresher on the principles behind Holy Communion?

If you answered yes to any of these questions - even if you've been receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion for many years - this class is for you!

On **Sunday, March 28 from 10:45 - 11:45 am** join Pastor Bob for instruction on the lessons of Holy Communion. First Communion will be celebrated by the participants of this class on **Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm.**



If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office to register at parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org or 610-369-1024.

**Wednesday, March 3**

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship  
Livestream on YouTube

**Sunday, March 7**

9:30 am Worship Livestream on YouTube

**Wednesday, March 10**

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship  
Livestream on YouTube

**Sunday, March 14**

9:30 am Worship Livestream on YouTube

**Wednesday, March 17**

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship  
Livestream on YouTube

**Sunday, March 21**

9:30 am Worship Livestream on YouTube

**Wednesday, March 24**

7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship  
Livestream on YouTube

**Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday**

9:30 am In-Person Worship &  
Livestream on YouTube

*Register for in-person worship online or call the office*

**Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm Worship Livestream on YouTube

**Friday, April 2 - Good Friday**

7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy  
Livestream on YouTube

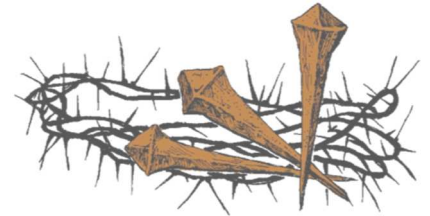
**Saturday, April 3 - Vigil of Easter**

7:00 pm Worship Livestream on YouTube

**Sunday, April 4 - Easter Day**

9:30 am In-Person Worship &  
Livestream on YouTube

*Register for in-person worship online or call the office*



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Vicky Henry

The year is flying by so fast. Enrollment opened at the end of January. At the time of this writing, we have 32 families enrolled for the 2021/2022 school year. As always, morning classes are filling up fast!

Our service event, the 'Souper Bowl', collected 175 plus cans of soup for the Salvation Army. We are continually trying to impress upon the children that it is good to help others.

We are in the planning stages of our 'spring event' for the children. Because our fall scavenger hunt was so well attended and we got so much positive feedback, we are working on another family event that can be held safely. Watch the next newsletter for details!

During this school year, I have been in contact through Zoom meetings with local preschool directors. These directors are from Cornerstone, Frederick, Bally Mennonite and St. Columbkill's. Together we discuss any problems that we all experience. It is a wonderful outreach, since we are all in the same shoes---providing quality education for our preschoolers.

As a result of our preschool being State certified, we have been blessed with funding through the CARES Act. Earlier, we received grant monies in three phases to help to offset the decreased enrollments due to COVID. Most recently, we received a 'whole room disinfecting sprayer', an ultraviolet light, children's masks and disinfecting spray from the State, purchased with extra funds from the CARES Act.

Pastor Bob is directly responsible for pushing us to qualify to become State certified. His insight has certainly moved our preschool to a higher level!

As a result of our certification, staff is now completing 12 hours of continuing education. The courses we're completing are keeping us competitive with up-to-date practices and procedures necessary to keep us better prepared to educate and prepare children for future success in their school years.

Please keep the staff in your prayers. Pass the word to family and friends on what a terrific preschool we have!

## HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, JANET ERB!



Let's help Janet celebrate her birthday on March 7 by sending cards to:

314 E. Philadelphia Ave.  
Boyertown, PA 19512



# THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

By: Roslyn Moatz

Some time ago Pastor Bob had asked me to share my thoughts on prayer. I wondered how to go about that request. Prayer is a personal thing for me. What are some of the things I think are important to consider about prayer?

I found myself having to answer some questions. I've included the questions and my answers below. Take some time to see how you might answer these questions.

How do I feel about God?

*God is Pure Love. There is an innocence in His love for us. He provides comfort, safety, honesty in His unconditional love for us.*

Who is He to me?

*He is my Father, my Savior, my Lord. He is the one I go to FIRST about everything!*

How does He affect my heart?

*There is a confidence I get when I am in conversation (prayer) with Him, even if I don't know the answer, I know He does and He will guide me to better understanding. He causes my heart to be filled with love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and even patience. Yes, these "fruits of the Spirit" are attributes that come from the Holy Spirit.*

So, what does all this have to do with prayer? These are just the basics for how I feel or act where my prayer time is concerned.

For me, prayer is an innocent conversation with My Lord. I can say anything I need to say, to express myself and I know He is listening. There is NO judgement, no correction, and no interruption. He lets me speak and then He waits for me to stop, to be still and listen. Sometimes the waiting is long, longer than other times. Sometimes it's immediate, not verbal but a feeling, a sense that I know He's leading me one way or another. Sometimes He uses someone else to send me a message. Or there may be no answer at all. That's when I know there's more to learn, seek, or to know. So, I keep reading His Word, the Bible, to align my thoughts with His Word.

When I enter into a time of prayer there is an acronym I try to follow: ACTS.

**A – Adoration** – Giving God PRAISE and Honor for who He is as our Lord and Savior - for the sacrifice He made to forgive my sins.

**C – Confession** – Honesty is a key factor in prayer. This is God I am talking with. I cannot hide anything from Him. He already knows it all. We all sin daily, so I might as well ask for forgiveness right away, even when I can't recognize my own sins.

**T – Thanksgiving** – Verbalizing what I'm grateful for in my life and in the world around me. Even the simplest things matter to God.

**S – Supplication** – lastly coming humbly before Him in prayer for others as well as myself.

I find the deeper my knowledge about who He is becomes, the more I read the bible and the more it helps to grow my prayer life. Let me share some examples of prayer for each part of the ACTS example.

A – Adoration:

My dear Father in heaven and on earth, I praise and honor your Holy name. You are my Lord and Savior, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. No one is greater than You! You love me unconditionally even though I am a sinner. I am so grateful to know you and to have relationship with you. To be known as one of Your children. Heavenly Father, you teach and lead me, and I surrender my life to You. I love You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C – Confession:

Lord, I come to You in my sinful nature. I make wrong decisions and choices all the time. I try but cannot help myself. Only You can set me on the right path. Help me to change my mind, heart, and spirit to learn and grow to become more like You. Please free me from my bondage to sin.

T – Thanksgiving:

Oh Father, what would I do without You? You have given me breath and life, all that I am and all that I have come from You. I am nothing without You, Lord. I love you and praise Your Holy name. You are my everything. I thank You for my family and life you have gifted me through Your Son and Holy Spirit. You have blessed my life abundantly more than I deserve.

S – Supplication:

Today Lord, I am privileged to come to You in prayer for others. I ask that your healing hand be upon all who are ill and suffering with any kind of affliction. Please provide for the needs of those that don't have what they need. Prepare the hearts at St. John's to desire to know you more and to serve those in our community and the world around us. Make us a congregation that follows You and shares the message of salvation with those that cross our paths. Please teach us how to love others in a way that represents Your character and nature. Lead us in prayer and knowledge as Your disciples.

Prayer is an essential part of my life. I need it like we all need air to breath. It's a foundation, "the Rock" I stand on daily. It keeps me grounded in faith, hopeful in truth and committed to serving others.

Please join me by sharing in Holy Conversation with our Lord, daily. He is waiting and listening for the familiar voices of His precious children.

How does prayer affect your life? I'd love to hear your story!

If you need prayer, I'm here for you. You can reach me at [ramoatz80@gmail.com](mailto:ramoatz80@gmail.com).



# MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:30p Daisy/Brownie Troop 1759	<b>2</b> 7:00p Cub Scouts 7:00p Small Group Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7:00p Unfailing Light 7:30p Congregation Council	<b>4</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts 8:00p Broadcast	<b>5</b> 7:00a Men's Bible Study 9:00a Boyertown One	<b>6</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>7</b> Lent 3 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Moatz) 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Roth) 9:30a Worship Celebration Online 'Girl Scout Recognition'	<b>8</b> 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Daisy/Brownie Troop 1759	<b>9</b> 7:00p Cub Scouts 7:00p Small Group Bible Study	<b>10</b> 7:00p Unfailing Light	<b>11</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts 8:00p Broadcast	<b>12</b> 7:00a Men's Bible Study 9:00a Boyertown One 6:00p Catechism Spring Retreat Begins	<b>13</b> 4:00p Catechism Spring Retreat Ends 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>14</b> Lent 4 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Moatz) 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Roth) 9:30a Worship Celebration Online 2:00p Me & My Gal (Girl Scouts)	<b>15</b> 6:30p Daisy/Brownie Troop 1759	<b>16</b> 7:00p Cub Scouts 7:00p Finance Team 7:00p Small Group Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:00p Unfailing Light	<b>18</b> 9:00a Community Leaders 6:30p Troop Committee 7:00p Boy Scouts 8:00p Broadcast	<b>19</b> 7:00a Men's Bible Study 9:00a Boyertown One	<b>20</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>21</b> Lent 5 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Moatz) 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Roth) 9:30a Worship Celebration Online	<b>22</b> 6:30p Daisy/Brownie Troop 1759	<b>23</b> 7:00p Cub Scouts 7:00p Small Group Bible Study	<b>24</b> 7:00p Unfailing Light	<b>25</b> 7:00p Boy Scouts 8:00p Broadcast	<b>26</b> 7:00a Men's Bible Study 9:00a Boyertown One	<b>27</b> 8:30a Spring Cleanup 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Moatz) 8:00a God's Word Blesses Us (Roth) 9:30a Worship Celebration In-person & Online 10:45a First Holy Communion Training	<b>29</b> 6:30p Daisy/Brownie Troop 1759	<b>30</b> 7:00p Small Group Bible Study	<b>31</b>			

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Sam Kulp	<b>2</b> Gerald Krause Robert Stoudt	<b>3</b> Perry Guinther	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Judy Unger	<b>6</b> Linda Rohrbach
<b>7</b> Janet Erb Mollie Goodrich Jeffrey Graham Robert Strunk	<b>8</b> Laurel Leister David Richard	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Rob Brile George Hill	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Myles Omlor Tony Xanthopoulos	<b>13</b> Barbara Houp
<b>14</b> Phil Haddad Gracie Martin Chris Miller Hanna Schnable	<b>15</b> Molly Byrne	<b>16</b> Ralph McElwee	<b>17</b> Jacob Boughter Jessica Brunner	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Walter Breitzkreutz Sarah White	<b>20</b> Mel Conrad Rodney Henry
<b>21</b> Gary Bahr	<b>22</b> Kenneth Billger Richard Brown Sr Ronald Houck	<b>23</b> Tim Adam Paula Babb Samuel Eidle Vicky Henry William Herb	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Douglas Stout	<b>26</b> Eric Kershner Lisa Litzenberger David Pollock Jr Donald Weil I Carl Wenzel	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Linda Allmendinger Brian Christman Paula Kriebel	<b>29</b> Karen Pollock	<b>30</b> Joseph Cremi Ronald Davidheiser Nicholas Eidle Christopher Truman	<b>31</b> Andrew Huber			



# EAGLE MESSENGER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | 45 North Reading Avenue | Boyertown, PA 19512  
610-369-1024 | 610-369-1463 Fax | [www.stjohnsboyertown.org](http://www.stjohnsboyertown.org)

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We believe God's purpose for the people of  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop  
joy-filled children of God who love the Lord  
and share God's Word.

*We do this by:*

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

*With a focus on:*

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

Return Service Request - Dated Material  
Mailed February 22, 2021

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

ONLINE

SUNDAY | 9:30 AM | WORSHIP LIVE STREAM

Office Hours (open by appointment)  
*Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm*  
*Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm*

Pastor Bob Machamer  
Kay Christman, Finance Team  
Mason Emmert, Director of Worship and Music  
Sue Grofe, Finance Team  
Vicky Henry, Preschool Director  
Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team  
Michael Omlor, Treasurer  
Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator  
Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator  
Amber Shubert, Sexton

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God's work. Our hands.