



Dear Friends,

The members of St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church have received an invitation to serve our neighbors, all people - those who love God, those who say they don't believe in God, those who are hurting, those who are celebrating - every person on this planet. This invitation has been and always will be part of God's timeless purpose for all people to receive life, even more so, abundant life.

I can't imagine there is anyone reading this brief note that doesn't recognize the necessity for all of our members to commit to a continual process of prayer, study, discussion and teaching. We have been on a mission clarifying our purpose for years. Clearly, we know that God is the One with the mission to reconcile all people to Himself and set people free from the tyranny of thinking there is anything we can do to get to God. You have been taught and, I pray, accept God's declaration and promise that you are the salt of the earth and you are light for the world. You are! Be who you are...blessed!

Every healthy, vibrant and growing congregation I know or have read about will tell you that their story includes a time that could be best described as 'Under Development.' They used the tools necessary and noted in the above paragraph. They worked hard and played even harder at studying the scriptures, praying for guidance and enjoying (yes, it is possible to LOVE meetings when they have a Godly purpose) sharing their heart beliefs with each other. With excitement and enthusiasm they eventually narrowed down what they believed God was calling them to do knowing (and this is really important), that God was the One who was doing the work through them. When they opened their hearts and submitted to the guidance of the Holy Spirit things exploded in marvelous and wonderful ways. People felt the healing, nurturing, reconciling, passionate, love of God. They did what they felt God was calling them to do and you couldn't hold them back from sharing what they had experienced with everyone they met on the streets, not just in the building we call church, but rather in the world God created and loves!

Do you believe we are being asked to do even more than we are already doing? Do you believe that worship can be summed up in the phrase, "Love the Lord with all your heart"? Do you believe that Ministry is about "Loving your neighbor"? Can you see Evangelism as your opportunity to "Go into the world and make disciples"? Are you willing to, as a disciple, "go and teach"?

"The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

- Ephesians 4:11-16 NRSV

Be blessed!
Pastor Bob



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SEE WHAT YOU HAVE

By: Pastor Bob

Some people are so anxious about what they don't have, and/or are in danger of losing what they already have, that they can't see what God has already provided. Other people are so focused on tomorrow and their big dreams and plans, that they and their organizations miss out on the things that are actually happening and possible today.

Most of what God wants us to see is right here and now. Think about it. Jesus was often frustrated by two kinds of people. First, religious people who liked religion and the status it brought. Second, people who watched God work and missed it. Remember what Jesus said to his followers right after He fed 10,000 people. They had just crossed the lake and it was getting late and they realized they had forgotten to bring bread along. He was flabbergasted.

"Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the 5,000, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve, they replied." "And when I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "seven." He said to them, "Do you still not understand?" - Mark 8:1-21

Seeing what you have begins with believing the testimony of Scripture that God is alive, at work, and on the loose in the world! Jesus doesn't emphasize vision of the future. He urges people to trust the future to God and promises that it is in good hands.

(When this was written over a decade ago, it was the piece of material that the team I was privileged to work with at A Renewal Enterprise received the greatest positive affirmation. It was also the piece that lit a fire under quite a few congregations that we learned was the spark that ignited the blaze they experience still today.)

Missed a worship service?

Want to hear a powerful sermon message again?

You're just a click away!

Visit YouTube and search
ST. JOHN'S ELC BOYERTOWN
to get connected!



Have you
noticed the
new
welcoming
banners
outside?



Thank You!

Thank you to our volunteer coordinators
and everyone that
donated blood at the Miller Keystone
Blood Drive in June.

We collected 25 units
here at St. John's!

Why didn't they play cards on the ark?

(find the answer on page 5!)

THERE IS A STORY TO BE TOLD...YOUR STORY

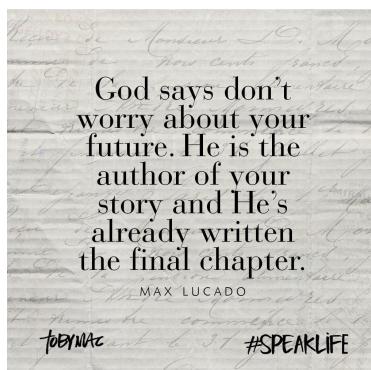
By: Charles Haddad

In the past year, I have written three articles for the Eagle Messenger with the heading, 'There Is a Story To Be Told'. This article has a similar heading of *There is A Story To Be Told*, but it is YOUR STORY!

The Boyertown State Theatre, in partnership with the Talisman Players of Kutztown, will be scripting and producing an original live stage show based on the experiences of local residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The production titled, 'The Lost Year' will portray real life stories of local Berks and Montgomery County residents on stage in a format similar to Thornton Wilder's, 'Our Town'. This program is partially funded by the Hawley and Myrtle Quier Community Fund at the Berks County Community Foundation. The grant purpose is to connect the residents within a community with each other and residents of neighboring communities with each other. The COVID-19 pandemic has no boundaries. The sorrows, tragedies, joys and triumphs are similar to people within a community as well as to people in neighboring communities.

Residents in the communities of Boyertown, Birdsboro, Fleetwood and Oley will be invited to submit their life experiences both sad and happy during the lost year. There will be three stage performances in October 2021 to connect people from one community to another. The first performance will be to connect Boyertown with Oley, the second to connect Boyertown with Fleetwood and the third to connect Boyertown with Birdsboro. To further the exchange experience there will be a mixer at St. John's after each performance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has truly been an unprecedented hardship and experience for many of us. This program, with real life stories, will enable us to share those tragedies, joys, sorrows and triumphs to let each other know one was not alone in The Lost Year. As divided as our country may appear at times, our helping each other is our true self. When asked to comment on the program, Pastor Bob said, "A production like 'The Lost Year', which puts faces and stories to our community, at a time when this beloved country faces one of the toughest trials of its history, that has killed over 600,000 people in this county alone, is timely. The pandemic has excluded no one. In the wake of suffering, especially those who have died alone and those who have been unable to say goodbye to loved ones, we must choose hope. In each other, our faith in God, will help us smile once again."



Emma was never shy with her prayer requests.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

The length of our prayers really makes no difference to God. All that matters is that we pray the way He is teaching us to pray and that our prayers are Spirit-led, heartfelt, thankful, and accompanied by faith. Throughout the Bible, there are incredibly brief, but powerful, prayers. Here are a few of them:

Numbers 12:13:

Moses prayed for his sister: "Please, God, heal her!"

1 Kings 17:21:

Elijah prayed: "Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!"

Luke 23:34:

Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

There will be times when we will pray longer prayers than others, but there is no correlation between how many minutes or hours we pray and whether God hears us. Just one word spoken to Him in faith from a sincere heart can reach His heart and move His hand.

Prayer of Thanks:

Thank You, Father, that I can pray to You from my heart, no matter how long or short that prayer may be. I am grateful that I can just be myself when I am with You. Amen

Copyright © 2014 by Joyce Meyer; *The Power of Being Thankful*, 365 Devotions for Discovering the Strength of Gratitude



GREETINGS FROM PRESCHOOL!

By: Amy Willson

It may be summer, but the preschool is still hopping! Summer is a busy time of planning, refreshing, refocusing and getting ready for the upcoming school year. While I may not be in the office every day, I still find myself there frequently as I provide tours, review and process applications, answer ongoing questions, hire new staff and plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

One of our main focuses this summer is on training, and ensuring best practices moving forward. We currently utilize Handwriting Without Tears in our classrooms, which is part of the larger Learning Without Tears Curriculum. The preschool staff is fortunate enough that we will have a representative from Learning Without Tears on-site with us to provide in-depth training across the board for their entire curriculum, which will allow us to refine, strengthen and elevate our preschool program. We are thrilled for this opportunity for the staff and for all the students it will also impact.

We also continue to expand the preschool and are in the process of having additional rooms state-certified for use, and converting them to classrooms. There is something truly special about setting up a new classroom for the first time, the excitement, the anticipation, the endless opportunities.

The preschool can always use volunteers – whether it is to help prep crafts for class, help coordinate a fundraiser, serve on our preschool support committee – the possibilities are endless! If you feel called to volunteer with the preschool, please reach out to me at 610-367-0197 or awillson@stjohnsboyertown.org to discuss the many ways we can utilize your gift of time!

I look forward to introducing our new staff and sharing more insight into our training and planning for the upcoming school year – stay tuned for next month's edition! In the meantime, if you know anyone in need of a top notch preschool, we are still accepting applications, and have a very limited number of spots remaining.

Wishing you all a summer filled with sunny days and many blessings!



BOYERTOWN EVENING FARMERS MARKET

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Located in the parking lot of
The Museum of Historic Vehicles.

Outdoor market with vendors on a rotating
basis along with live music!

SUMMER LEARNING *GROWTH STARTS HERE*



Thursday night's class, 'A New Reformation'.



Tuesday night's class, 'Fail: What to do When Things Go Wrong'.

FIRST COMMUNION MILESTONE

By: Martha Bentley

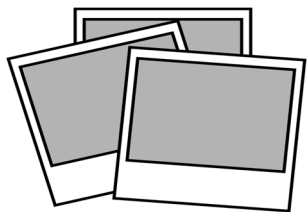
Thomas Daub celebrated his first Holy Communion in March. He is the son of Greg and Amy Daub. Thomas was in fifth grade this past year at Upper Perk School. Math was his favorite subject this year, while Social Studies was not as enjoyable.

COVID prevented Thomas from participating in extracurricular school activities this year, but he enjoys running. He used his free time to play games on YouTube. At this point in his life, Thomas thinks a career as a chef or baker would be interesting.

According to Thomas, communion is the first step in participating in church life. In the future, he would like to help out with Sunday School activities at St. John's.

When asked what he would like to see happen at St. John's in the future, Thomas replied that St. John's is already a great church.





PHOTOS NEEDED

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN WWII

The General Spaatz WWII Museum (GSM) will be opening Labor Day Weekend. One of the major

exhibits is of the 350 men and women from St. John's that served in WWII. In addition to the Honor Roll of Service that has been refurbished and relocated to the GSM, service photos of those who served are welcome to be displayed. The exhibit for St. John's is titled, *A Parish Story, St. John's Boyertown Lutheran Church*. If you want a photo to be on display of a family member or friend that served in WWII, and was a member of St. John's, please call Charles Haddad at 484-824-4224 to arrange for the photo delivery. Please note, the photo will not be returned as this is a permanent display.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

By: Cathy Krause

To everything there is a season and, hopefully, the season of COVID is shortly over. The 2020-2021 Sunday Church School season is over as well. (We only had three [or was it four?] weeks of class.) With the end of the 20-21 school year comes great and heartfelt thanks to Amy Vogt, Ann Dean, Amber Engle and Tom Engle. This phenomenal staff has served its term and now it is time for a new team.

Class will re-commence on September 12, with masks in place until the youngest among us can be vaccinated. This is a multi-age group class. The youngest can be 3 years old; kids usually leave once they start Catechism, grades 5 to 6. The class needs someone, or a couple someones, who can supply simple craft projects for our lessons. Also needed are an additional adult or two, or three to comply with our church's safety policy.

We have a fun time learning about how God uses imperfect people. We learn how we are very much like Moses when he tried to not go to Egypt and like Jonah when he tried to hide from God. We learn that Gideon was insecure and needed God to reassure him. The most memorable classes are the Palm Sunday parade that leads back to our classroom and an abbreviated sample of the same Seder that Jesus experienced – complete with kosher food – and Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the church's birthday, with chocolate and vanilla birthday cake, of course.

Please prayerfully consider involvement with Sunday School. Contact me at 610-948-5905 or cmkrause298@gmail.com if you're interested. The rewards are great for the kids, for you and especially for God's Kingdom.

CATECHISM ORIENTATION MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

10:45 AM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Open to students going into 5th & 6th grades. Class schedule, requirements, overnights and retreats will be discussed.

Please contact Becky Scheiry by
Friday, August 20 to attend.

parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org

Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, August 9 for September issue

Monday, September 13 for October issue

Monday, October 11 for November issue

Answer from page 2:

Because Noah was always standing
on the deck!

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00a Messy People 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Understanding Grief Debrief 11:00a Reckless Love	2	3 6:30p Fail	4 2:00p Homelessness Task Force 7:00p Congregation Council	5 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p A New Reformation 8:00p Broadcast	6 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	7 4:30p Come to the Table
8 8:00a Messy People 9:30a Worship Celebration 11:00a Reckless Love	9 5:00p Newsletter Submission	10 6:30p Fail	11	12 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p A New Reformation 8:00p Broadcast	13 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	14 4:30p Come to the Table
15 8:00a Messy People Debrief 9:30a Worship Celebration 11:00a Reckless Love Debrief	16	17 6:30p Fail Debrief 7:00p Finance Team	18 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 7:00p Congregation Council	19 9:00a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p A New Reformation Debrief 8:00p Broadcast	20 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	21 4:30p Come to the Table
22 9:30a Worship Celebration 'Back to School Blessing'	23	24	25	26 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Broadcast	27 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	28 11:00a Ruth Grubb Memorial Service 4:30p Come to the Table 5:30p Summer Learning Participant Dinner
29 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Catechism Orientation	30	31				

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Kay Christman Sarah Eidle	2 Jen Schlegel	3 Virga Brown	4 Shelba DiPietro Donna Little	5 Dorothy Gruber Joan Marburger James Smoyer	6 Aiden Guinther	7 Barry Christman
8 Monica Herbert	9	10 Shannon Omlor Thomas Unger	11 Ben Rohrbach	12 Dorothea Breitreutz Laverne Snyder Adalyn Stahlnecker	13 Sarah Buzalewski William Daub	14 Adam Cadwallader Arianna Koch
15 Ann Losch Dennis Shollenberger	16 Alex Vogt	17 Betty Long Ruth Schlegel	18 Renaë Johnson James Miller Cassidy Shaner	19 Elwood Heydt Robert Richards Constance Shoemaker Luke Stofflet	20 Ebie Cadwallader Mark Stofflet Jr Janet Zerbe	21 Makayla Adam Janice Gamler Robert Houser Max Manos
22 Josh Endy Ruth Ann Wren	23 Roberta Lucarelli Brian Moatz	24 Max Goodrich June Tim	25 Karin Pell Joan Snyder Barbara Yoder	26	27 Fred Endy Jr Alina Friz Daniel Nester	28
29 Dawn Gamler Connor Groff Shirley Hartman Betty Keim Mark Rohrbach	30 Susie Allmendinger Lucille Gehris Cade Sennott David Sterling	31				



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

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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 July 22, 2021

WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM ON YOUTUBE

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

Pastor Bob Machamer
Sheridan Brodhead, Music Coordinator
Kay Christman, Finance Team
Sue Grofe, Finance Team
Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team
Michael Omlor, Treasurer
Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator
Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator
Amber Shubert, Sexton
Amy Willson, Preschool Director

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.