



## 2022 Strength in Intentional Relationships

If we want to be a growing, even thriving, congregation during a time that 90% of US congregations are in organizational chaos, the answer to doing so is simple – vision. Small Groups and People Caring for People Ministries (PCP, All are Welcome, Come to the Table, Operation 143) put our Core Value of Intentional Relationships front and center.

When our leaders **and our congregation** are focused on the future, continuing to learn from our past successes and failures; when we are focused beyond ourselves and focus on transforming lives, then it's not nearly as difficult to move the needle from chaos to action. If we take the time to do the hard work of knowing who we are, we will end up with clarity, we will know precisely where to go, and how to lead our congregation to that future. As your pastor I must stay on task and focus on the priorities that will help our congregation transform lives, grow the congregation, and grow the kingdom. Every member of our congregation **must** value and embrace a collective vision of high commitment and high standards. When we are **intentional** about **relationships** we move forward. It's logical and it happens almost effortlessly. Why? Because it's God's way. When the two come together, God is blessed!

The past two years have provided, for better or worse, a beautiful opportunity to talk about our Core Values. Those Core Values have provided a boundary of who we will be corporately as well as who we will not be. It's time to trust God even when our life together is complicated and tough.

### Authentic Worship

Worship is where we are immersed in God's unconditional love. When we orient ourselves towards God, we discover that God goes to work with us, transforming us to live as children of God.

### Intentional Relationships

Spending time in intentional relationships with one another is living into the identity that Jesus created for us. We are meant to be in community with one another, loving and supporting each other through life.

### Sacrificial Service

We don't think of Service as something we do occasionally – an activity or event. We believe Service is a way of life.

### Radical Generosity

We are called to give more time, love, forgiveness, and resources to others. We will challenge you to live more generously in every aspect of your life.

If these are our Core Values, then if you are single, divorced, married, Democrat, Republican, unaffiliated, LGBTQIA+, refugee, immigrant, unemployed, unhoused, young, old, black, brown, white, or categorized by any other worldly boundary, you are welcome here. Together, we will embrace God's mission of unity and grow into a place where all are safe to be who they are – blessed!

May God bless us as we move forward toward a blessed New Year!

Pastor Bob

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Christmas Worship  
& Meal

PAGE 2

Epiphany

PAGE 3

MLK Day of Service  
Opportunity

PAGE 3

Valentines for  
Homebound

PAGE 4

# Christmas Worship

MASKS  
REQUIRED  
AT ALL  
SERVICES

DECEMBER 24 3:00, 7:00, 9:00PM  
(7:00 LIVESTREAMED)

DECEMBER 25 10:30AM

DECEMBER 26 9:30AM  
LESSONS & CAROLS

Sing with us this Christmas in worship filled with beautiful music!

## CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 pm - *String quartet and Hal Pysher, organist*  
7:00 pm (candlelight) - *Brass quartet and Hal Pysher, organist*  
9:00 pm (candlelight) - *String duet and Hal Pysher, organist*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

*congregational singing*

LESSONS & CAROLS  
*Hal Pysher, organist; Mason Emmert, vocals, piano; and Sam Kulp guitar*

## FREE TAKE OUT CHRISTMAS MEAL

**December 25**  
**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

enter parking lot at  
N. Reading Ave or Walnut St  
and follow traffic directors  
to back of building



# EPIPHANY: A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

By: Cathy Krause

First, read Matthew 2: 1-12.

Epiphany is a Greek word that means appearance, coming into the light, or a revealing. Many of us have epiphanies when we come to an understanding of a difficult problem. The “light bulb” comes on – an “ah-ha” moment occurs – and all becomes clear.

“God uses any means available for revealing truth to those who seek it.” (p.29, The Lutheran, Jan 2007.) The tools God uses in the story of the magi are astrology and scripture.

The Bible gives no names for the magi, nor does it reveal a number. There may have been more or less than the legendary three. And, they were definitely not kings. They were possibly clergy in the Zoroastrian religion. This religion was prevalent in ancient Persia, modern day Iran. Today these men might be called astrologers.

The study of scripture often involves comparing and contrasting. In the story of the magi, the motives of Herod, the scribes and chief priests, and the magi are very different. Herod was afraid his kingship would be challenged (by a little child in diapers!). So, he called on the Jewish chief priests and scribes to determine where this usurper king would be born, but the Jews did not follow the magi. The magi, however, acted on the information they had. They journeyed a great distance, checked in with Herod, and went to a house in Bethlehem to worship, bringing gifts.

Yes, the magi came late – but they came. They took a great risk. This is a story of discipleship, of following Jesus. We have no additional sightings of the magi. They exit the Gospel of Matthew without a trace. But they leave behind a question for us: What do we do with our knowledge of Jesus?

Sources consulted:

Albrecht, Mark and Matthew Hand. “Who Were the Magi?” The Lutheran. Jan 2004. 50-51.

Donmoyer, Patrick. “Three Kings Legend Inspires Reverence.” Reading Eagle. 11 Jan 2017. 21.

Honeycutt, Frank G. “Herod’s Fear.” The Lutheran. Jan 2009. 32-33.

Honeycutt, Frank G. “Wise Guys.” Living Lutheran. Jan 2018. 5.

Russell, Patrick. “Epiphany’s Enduring Question.” The Lutheran. Jan 2007. 28-30.

St Paul Lutheran Church, Evanston IL. “What is Epiphany?” The Lutheran. Jan 2004. 42.



Observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off,” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. We will be starting and ending our day at Good Shepherd UCC and participating in projects all within walking distance of the church. Lunch will be served at St. John’s and a tee shirt will be provided. All teens 13 years of age and older are welcome.

## Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

**Monday, January 10** for February issue

**Monday, February 7** for March issue

**Monday, March 14** for April issue

## WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

Our ‘Inclement Weather’ policy at St John’s states that when the Boyertown Area School District is closed, we follow their lead and cancel all meetings and events.

For weather related closings, check Channel 69 News or [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com).



# PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Amy Willson

As we enter a New Year, do we enter it filled with doubts and uncertainties, or do we enter it full of hopes and dreams? Most likely, the answer is a combination of both. Who do you turn to in times of uncertainty? At the preschool, we teach the children that God is always with you; if you are sad or happy, if you are afraid or want to share your heart's desire, in times of uncertainty you can turn to God.

Knowing this doesn't mean life and the New Year will be without trials and tribulations, or twists and turns along the way, but if you step out in faith, God will carry you through every moment, day, week and month.

Through our daily devotionals, we learn about God's enduring love, how to be a good neighbor, about friendship, resilience, living a life of purpose; easy devotions for even the littlest of our learners to understand and help them grow with God. These lessons will help them not only today, but as they grow older and navigate their own trials and tribulations and twists and turns in life, and ultimately serve to remind them that God is always with them.

I pray your first step into 2022 will be full of hope and anticipation, of all that God will do in your life and through your life, throughout the coming year.



## VALENTINE CARING TREE

A Valentine Caring Tree will be displayed in the back of the sanctuary from Sunday, January 30 to Sunday, February 6. Hearts containing names and addresses of homebound members will be available for anyone to take off the tree and mail a note of cheer. Our preschool students will also be making and sending valentines to homebound members. Take a heart, send a card and let those not able to be with us know they are thought of and prayed for!



Hi Everyone,

My name is Martha Endy. Many of you know me by my nickname, Missy.

I have been a member of St. John's since birth and a member of the Preschool staff for 45 years. Boy, where did that time go?

I have worked with the 3-year old, 4-year old and the transitional kindergarten classes. For the past 9 years I have only worked with the transitional kindergarten.

They say if you enjoy what you are doing you'll never work a day in your life. I have been blessed to work many, many days with so many wonderful staff over the years.

One of the most rewarding experiences for me is that I am now working with the children of former students from 25 or so years ago which I think speaks volumes of our Preschool. That the parents of these children thought enough of their own experience here at St. John's to want their children to have that same experience. That is a credit to the commitment of our church and to our friendly, capable and loving staff over the years.



When I am not at preschool, I love to craft, read, swim and attend Kutztown University football games. My husband, Fred, and I are also proud grandparents to Caroline, 27 an Albright College graduate, Amy, 22 a Millersville University graduate and Sophia, 16 a junior at Wyomissing Area High School.

thank you!

Many thanks to our community stores for providing supplies for our 2021 Christmas meal!

Walmart supplied 500 take-out bags. Giant food store supplied 60 insulated bags to use in our delivery of meals to the homebound. Weis Markets also supplied their reuseable market bags. Everything Printing in Gilbertsville supplied boxes for larger family pick ups.

We are so grateful for their support. Please thank them as you shop in their stores.

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> New Year's Day 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>2</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>3</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:45a Preschool Staff Meeting 2:00p Homelessness Task Force	<b>6</b> Epiphany 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Cub Scouts 512 7:00p Worship Celebration 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>7</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study Worship Team & Council Retreat	<b>8</b> Worship Team & Council Retreat 12:00p Baby Shower 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>9</b> Baptism of Our Lord 9:30a Sunday Church School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>10</b> 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30p Welcoming All	<b>13</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Cub Scouts 512 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>14</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>15</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>16</b> 9:30a Sunday Church School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>17</b> MLK Day of Service Annual Reports Due 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Finance Team	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen	<b>20</b> 9:00a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p Troop Committee 7:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Cub Scouts 512 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>21</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>22</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>23</b> 9:30a Sunday Church School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>24</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Endowment 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Cub Scouts 512 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>28</b> Men's Retreat 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>29</b> Men's Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>30</b> Men's Retreat 9:30a Sunday Church School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>31</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts					

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day	Special Service	Lector	Prayer	Sound	Ushers	Video
1/2/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday after Christmas		Michele Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Chase Sennott	Charles Haddad, Phil Haddad, Barbara Houp & Gerry Krause	Abbe Grofe
1/6/2022	Thursday	7:00 PM	Epiphany of Our Lord		Missy Endy	Tom Engle	Ashley Gheer	Ros and Brian Moatz	Nyla Omlor
1/9/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	First Sunday after Epiphany	Baptism of Our Lord	Nancy Graver	Mel Roth	Myles Omlor	Ed Schaeffer, Carol Sematis & Terry Wadsworth	Jason Eidle
1/16/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany		Andy Varzally	Jean Machamer	Brianna Rohrbach	Martha Bentley, Mike Gilbert, Jay Herbert & Scott Scheiry	Aiden Martin
1/23/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany		Jen Schlegel	Andy & Susan Varzally	Chase Sennott	Becky and Barry Erb, Bunny and Ron Riffle	Scott Scheiry
1/30/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany		Becky Scheiry	Lauren Frey	Ashley Gheer	Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Ben Rohrbach, Bill Rohrbach	Sarah Eidle
2/6/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Boy Scout Sunday	Tom Engle	Nancy Graver	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay and Donnie Heimbach, Ros and Brian Moatz	Abbe Grofe
2/13/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany		Amy Moyer	Friz Family	Brianna Rohrbach	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Sandy and Terry Wade	Nyla Omlor
2/20/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany		Brian Moatz	Sarah Eidle	Chase Sennott	Mike Huber, Thomas Huber & Susan and Andy Varzally	Jason Eidle
2/27/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Transfiguration of our Lord		Terry Wade	Karen Pollock	Ashley Gheer	Jay Herbert, Ed Schaeffer, Carol Sematis & Terry Wadsworth	Aiden Martin

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Michael Sabo
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Johanna Clark	<b>4</b> Ryan DiPietro Earl Guinther	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Barbara Brendlinger Robin Border	<b>7</b> Abigail Rhoads	<b>8</b> Elizabeth Rose Darlene Smith
<b>9</b> Connor Cordero Amy Moyer Nicole Stout	<b>10</b> Chris Schlegel	<b>11</b> Marvin Johnson	<b>12</b> Christian Coale Randy Rupert Kenneth Samsel Jacob Strouse	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> William Truman III Matthew Varzally
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Jenny Clark Jennifer Eidle	<b>18</b> Dana Smith	<b>19</b> Charles Eckert III Sebastian Varzally	<b>20</b> Grace Burkert Coby Sartin Luke Young	<b>21</b> Joanne Miller Kelli Miller Sandra Schoenly	<b>22</b> Karen Buzalewski Charles Miller III Maci Weiss
<b>23</b> Harper Gaugler Alvin Miller	<b>24</b> Amanda Kulhamer Jean Moyer Ronald Sheidy	<b>25</b> Dennis Strouse Jr.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Ruth Annabelle Burkert	<b>28</b> Bill Endy Lamar Hartline	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Jason Eidle Jackson Fretz Daniel Stout	<b>31</b> Christopher Houser Phyllis Rohrbach					



*Happy Birthday!*



# 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 December 17, 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  
Kay Christman, Finance Team  
Amanda Ehst, Worship Coordinator  
Sue Grofe, Finance Team  
Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team  
Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator  
Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator  
Amy Willson, Preschool Director

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