



"So, if you are serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ – that's where the action is. See things from His perspective." "Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the word of Christ have the run of the house."

- Colossians 3

Coaching boy's and girl's cross country was without a doubt the place where I saw clearest the truth in the popular and often quoted, "Culture eats strategy for lunch!" Creating a positive, supportive, and trusting team culture (spirit) made all the difference in each student athlete's experience as well as the team.

For young distance runners, especially those in their first season, the concept of working together as a team to improve their performance and the team's performance is almost always foreign to them. They make the mistake of thinking that cross country is an individual sport with many individuals participating. It's not! Cross country is a team sport where when everyone works together most athletes go beyond their anticipated goal, which guarantees the team score will be better. Even more important is that everyone has fun! Just ask the people who work in an authentic team environment. Their first comment seems to always be we have fun doing what we do. Now go and ask the crowd how much fun they had watching the team at work. Get my point?

When it comes to developing and nurturing culture, and while it's a little out of context, you will understand my point in the following Bible text. "While one may be overpowered, and two can defend themselves, a cord of three strands is not quickly broken." The Apostle Paul wrote about the connection between behavior and culture frequently. A Christ-centered culture will always advocate for healthy behavior within this Christian community. An article published by the Alban Institute suggests questions your leaders at St. John's frequently ask. What behaviors emerge at St. John's when conflict arises? How do people at St. John's respond when new members join the congregation? What specific ways does our congregation support children and young adults?

Whether you're a cross country coach, an organizational leader, a team participant or even a pastor, creating the 'culture' begins with setting the standards of how members are expected to behave. Culture shapes what members do and even how they measure success. "Are we friendly at St. John's?", isn't the most helpful question. A more purposeful question would be to ask how do we develop a culture of authentic hospitality? Every organization from time to time must, out of loving concern and care for its members, but more importantly out of concern and commitment to the purpose of the organization (the reason for their being), reset expectations for how people behave and find ways to reinforce those desired behaviors. The vision may be clear. It may even be compelling. Yet still, unless the members behavior is aligned with the organizational standards, the best anyone can expect is stagnation and restlessness. Again, no matter how good your intentions, no matter how clear your strategy, unhealthy behavior that goes unaddressed and is tolerated for fear of hurting someone's feelings will always affirm the quote, "Culture eats strategy for lunch!" Why does bad behavior in churches sabotage the best of intentions? Because we allow it to go unchecked.

Be blessed!

Pastor Bob

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ANOTHER LOOK

By: Cathy Krause

A few weeks ago the parable of the Good Samaritan was our gospel reading. In it, besides the injured man, are three other people - a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan. We have learned that the Jews disliked, distrusted the Samaritans...but why?

According to The New Bible Dictionary, after the Hebrews returned from Babylonian exile, they had brought with them the ideal of purity of the race. The Samaritans had a mixed ancestry. Of course, this and other incidents caused friction. Let us remember that Jesus encountered the woman at the well (John 4:3-42) and many Samaritans believed. When Jesus ascended to the Father, he told the disciples to go to Samaria to be his witness (Acts 1: 7-8).

But what about the other two people? Who were they? Why are they in this parable?

The priests are descendants of Aaron, Moses' brother. Serving as a priest was a privilege reserved for the sons of Aaron (Numbers 3:10, 4:5-16). They were teachers of the law and were also judges (Nehemiah 8:9). They served in the temple, taking the offerings from the Levites who received them from the people (Numbers 8:5-19).

In Jesus' time, the priesthood had a hierarchy: the High Priest, the captain of the temple, the chief priests, and the ordinary priests. The high priest, under Herod the Great, was dismissed and appointed with the political winds. (Encyclopedia of the Bible)

We meet priests in the New Testament – The first one is Zacharias (Luke 1:5). One of his responsibilities was to burn incense in the temple of the Lord (Luke 1:8-9). When the days of his priestly duties/service were completed, he went home (Luke 1:23). People Jesus healed are told to show themselves to the priest: a leper in Matthew 8:4, and 10 lepers in Luke 17:11-19.

The Levites are descendants of Joseph's brother, Levi. In the Old Testament they were in charge of dismantling, carrying and erecting the tabernacle (Numbers 17:47-54). They provided manual labor in caring for the tabernacle (Numbers 1: 50-51). They served as representatives/substitutes for the first born of families (Numbers 8:14-18). Their main function was in the rituals of cleaning and dedication (Numbers 3:8, 25-26, 31, 36-37). Their service began around age 25-30 and lasted until they turned 50 (Numbers 3:6-9). They were also teachers of law and were judges like the priests.

In the New Testament, the Levites are referred to only three times: in the parable of the Good Samaritan, as emissaries to John the Baptist, and of Barnabas, a missionary who was a Levite.

Jesus may have chosen these three specific people for this parable to illustrate keeping a commandment is an act of love. The priest and the Levite certainly had the knowledge – but did not act on it.

As we move forward with our Welcoming All initiative this parable is a good lesson. Who do we want to emulate?

Sources Consulted:

The New Bible Commentary: Revised. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1973. 905.

The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 1028-1034.

Olson, Marc. The World Jesus Knew. Minneapolis: The Sparkhouse Family. 2017. 14-15, 42-45.

Priest. Encyclopedia of the Bible. N.d. Bible Gateway. 28 June 2022. <biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Priest-NewTestament>

Baptismal Promise – Gifts of Discipleship

LIVE among God's faithful people

HEAR the word of God and **SHARE** in the Lord's Supper

PROCLAIM the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed

SERVE all people, following the example of Jesus

STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 11

register on our website

Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, August 8 for September issue

Monday, September 12 for October issue

Monday, October 10 for November issue

COME TO THE TABLE HOSTS PICNIC

By: Ros Moatz & Shannon Omlor

St. John's provided a 4th of July picnic for their weekly 'Come to the Table' ministry on Saturday, July 2. 'Come to the Table' is a free meal ministry, happening every Saturday from 4:30 – 5:30 pm at St. John's. These free meals are served car-side in the parking lot, but you don't need a car to participate. Meals are gladly served to those who walk also.

Pre-pandemic, 'Come to the Table' took place inside St. John's Fellowship Hall, allowing for social engagement as well as a shared meal. During 2020, the meal was moved to a take-out style operation, much like many restaurants during the pandemic. The focus of this ministry is to get to know the people being served. Building relationships is the foundation St. John's strives for in growing this ministry. "We were pleased to be able to chat and get to know our neighbors better during this picnic meal. Not only do we listen with our ears, but we also serve through prayer as participants share their requests weekly," stated Ros Moatz. St. John's served over 170 meals last weekend and handed out devotional books, but more importantly had the opportunity to share God's love in the community.

Tables were set up outside to enjoy fresh grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and other picnic foods. A surprise contribution of Rita's Water Ice to cool off and a game of cornhole added to the fun. The success of this picnic prompted St. John's to start planning to do it again. To serve in this ministry contact the church office.

At St. John's you are invited to witness all the amazing things God has been up to in our lives and community! We are purposed with creating totally devoted disciples of Jesus Christ with a focus on holy conversation, bible study and prayer. We are committed to loving God and loving all people.



UPDATE FROM THE POTATO PROJECT

By: Karen Pollock

Hello Brothers and Sisters of St. John's!

I have some happy news to share with you!

If you will recall from our last Congregational Meeting, I expressed gratitude to St. John's for the generous donation to The Potato Project towards the purchase of a bean harvester. Not only has the harvester been purchased and delivered, but it has been put to work. The wonderful news is at the end of June, iHartHarvest workers brought in the first crop of Sugar Snap Peas... approximately 700 pounds which will provide a meal for 700 families. More happy news - Monday, July 11 was the first day of green bean harvest with more to come. The filled bins shown in the pictures all went to Helping Harvest Food Bank for distribution to families in need. With the assistance of St. John's, iHartHarvest has been able to achieve the multi-year goal of expanding and diversifying the fresh food crops donated to our local regional food bank. At the risk of being repetitive, THANK YOU! This is good news and should be celebrated. It is the greatest command put into action.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 NIV



New harvester filling first bin of harvested green beans.



Sugar snap peas delivered to Helping Harvest Food Bank.



Students and educators -
you're invited to this special worship service!
Let's gather together to offer prayer for everyone
heading back to the classroom.

Save the date

POTATO PROJECT - FALL HARVEST

September 11

1:00 pm

Becker's St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(265 Maidencreek Rd, Fleetwood)

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day	Special Service	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
8/7/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	9th Sunday after Pentecost		Ben Rohrbach	Shannon Omlor	Nancy Graver	Ashley Gheer	Barbara Houpp, Gerry Krause, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Jason Eidle
8/14/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	10th Sunday after Pentecost		Karen Pollock	Shannon Omlor	Martha Bentley	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Scott Scheiry, Susan & Andy Varzally	Aiden Martin
8/21/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Back to School Blessing	Nancy Graver	Sarah Eidle	Lauren Frey	Chase Sennott	Jay Herbert, Ed Schaeffer, Sandy & Terry Wade	Scott Scheiry
8/28/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	12th Sunday after Pentecost		Sarah Eidle	Shannon Omlor	Mei Roth	Ashley Gheer	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Sarah Eidle
9/4/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	13th Sunday after Pentecost		Michele Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Karen Pollock	Brianna Rohrbach	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer	Abbe Grofe
9/11/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	14th Sunday after Pentecost		Jay Herbert	Sarah Eidle	Molly Byrne	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake, Charles Haddad, Ed Schaeffer	Nyla Omlor
9/18/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	15th Sunday after Pentecost		Charles Haddad	Shannon Omlor	Friz Family	Chase Sennott	Martha Bentley, Charles Haddad, Barbara Houpp, Carol Sematis	Jason Eidle
9/25/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	16th Sunday after Pentecost		Dave Babb	Shannon Omlor	Sarah Eidle	Ashley Gheer	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Ros & Brian Moatz	Scott Scheiry

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Youth Retreat – Washington DC 2:00p Homelessness Task Force 6:30p Worship Team	4 Youth Retreat – Washington DC 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	5 Youth Retreat – Washington DC 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	6 Youth Retreat – Washington DC 4:30p Come to the Table
7 9:30a Worship Celebration 12:00p Baby Shower	8 5:00p Newsletter Submission 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	9 6:30p Finance Team	10	11 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	12 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	13 4:30p Come to the Table
14 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Spiritual Gifts	15	16	17 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 7:00p Congregation Council	18 9:00a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	19 Worship Retreat 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	20 Worship Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
21 9:30a Worship Celebration – Back to School Blessing 10:45a Spiritual Gifts	22 7:00p State Theatre Board 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	23 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown Board	24	25 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	26 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	27 4:30p Come to the Table
28 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Spiritual Gifts	29	30	31			

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Kay Christman Sarah Eidle	2 Jennifer Schlegel	3 Virga Brown	4 Joe Blake III Shelba DiPietro Donna Little	5 Dorothy Gruber Joan Marburger	6 Aiden Guinther
7 Barry Christman	8	9	10 Shannon Omlor	11 Ben Rohrbach	12 Dorothea Breitkreutz Laverne Snyder	13 Sarah Buzalewski William Daub
14 Adam Cadwallader Arianna Koch	15 Dennis Shollenberger	16 Alex Vogt	17 Betty Long Ruth Schlegel	18	19 Elwood Heydt Robert Richards Constance Shoemaker Luke Stofflet	20 Ebie Cadwallader Mark Stofflet, Jr
21 Makayla Adam	22 Josh Endy Ruth Ann Wren	23 Roberta Lucarelli Brian Moatz	24 Max Goodrich June Tim	25	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

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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 25, 2022

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
Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer
Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator
Amy Willson, Preschool Director

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