

Over time, many congregations slip far too easily away from “Loving God and Loving Neighbor” and become increasingly inward-focused. The longer a congregation exists, the more concerned it tends to become with self-preservation. The result, not surprisingly, is that the church stops growing. The task of leaders is to keep, or turn, the focus of their congregation to Christ's primary goal of making disciples. A church can do many good things. A church should do a few important things. But there is only one essential thing a church must do: “Go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). Jesus said go and make disciples. So, where disciples are being made and an attempt to deepening the faith of others is a primary goal, I know that faithful ministry in the name of Jesus Christ is taking place.

My primary desire as your pastor has always been to become a stronger disciple myself through study of scripture, prayer, and holy conversation and to invite all of you into deepening your faith and your relationship with Jesus Christ by doing the same. The fruit of that kind of ministry goal is that every person in the congregation will understand themselves to be ministers of the Gospel, everyone will know how to care for one another, a sense that no one is indispensable will be felt by all people, and the compensated staff will exist primarily to help everyone else grow into what God intended them to be by equipping others to serve with them.

Dear friends, we must intentionally build relationships where they can discover healthy ways of meeting their spiritual needs in a safe and loving environment. While doing so we must seek to go beyond knowing one another and join in getting to know God more deeply. Over the past few years people have expressed in every place I've travelled how they feel disconnected and more isolated than ever before in their lives. So, let's help by being a place where all people feel they belong and are accepted. How many times today did you hear someone say they feel stressed? Can we be a place where we model balance and healthy life management (I know!)? The “great resignation” has been fueled with feelings of having had the life drained out of them while in pursuit of possessions. The pace of life has left many feeling overwhelmed. Can we be a learning community where all can receive the help they need during times of transition? God help us and those we will let down if we can't.

*God, open my eyes that I might see my church as you see it. Let me see where change needs to take place, even if it is painful to me. And use me, I pray, to be an instrument of that change whatever the cost.*

Be blessed!

Pastor Bob



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Wellspring Karitas

PAGE 2

WWII Roll of Honor

PAGE 2

Fall Learning  
Opportunities

PAGE 4

Preschool News

PAGE 5



Karitas  
Foundation

## GOING TO LEARN, RETURNING TO SERVE

By: Jen Schlegel

On September 12, Pastor Bob, Becky Scheiry, Shannon Omlor, Jen Friz, and Jen Schlegel welcomed Erik Friend and Griselda [last name?] to St. John's for a discussion about our January 2023 trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. Erik and Griselda shared important information about our trip, going beyond the practical, and into the experiential. Through prayer, discussion, and the sharing of a meal, meaningful relationships are already being formed, and photos of children exchanged! This will not be a traditional mission trip, but an opportunity for a team from St. John's to become ambassadors for the people we meet and the programs they participate in. Wellspring Karitas is an excellent example of an organization that is joining in where God is already smiling, by supporting communities that have identified their own needs and where they might need assistance. Following the meeting, the planning team assuredly recognizes that the success of this trip will be measured by what we the congregation accomplish after the group returns. While every member of the congregation is invited to participate through prayer and an advent tool drive, up to fifteen of our members will travel to Cuernavaca. On Sunday, September 25, potential service learners learned more about the trip and the final team of travelers will be announced soon.

### BAPTISMAL PROMISE

#### GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP



#### LIVE

among God's faithful people



#### HEAR

the word of God



#### 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



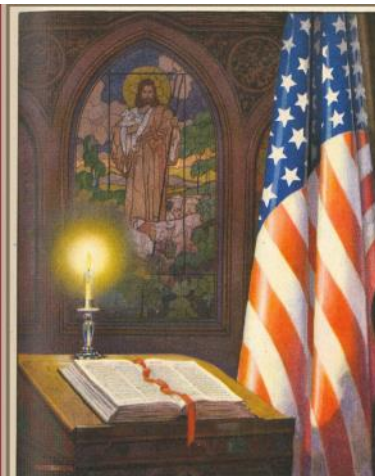
#### STRIVE

for justice and peace in all the earth

## Roll of Honor Dedication

General Carl Spaatz Museum  
Sunday, October 2  
11:00 am

On the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the museum, you're invited to join together with fellow members of St. John's to officially dedicate the Roll of Honor listing the 350 members of our congregation that served during WWII.



Faith of Our Fathers -- Roll of Honor  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
North Reading Avenue, Boyertown, Pennsylvania  
Presentation and Dedication of the Roll of Honor  
NEW YEAR'S EVE—DECEMBER 31, 1943  
7:30 o'clock  
The Rev. David F. Longacre, Pastor    Mrs. Harold B. Kelm, Organist

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

# THOUGHTS ON JOSHUA 2, HEBREWS 11:31, AND JAMES 2:25

By: Cathy Krause

Most of us know the story of Joshua and how he and the Hebrews brought down the walls of Jericho. There is another critical figure in this story: Rahab.

First, a bit about Jericho. Jericho was a walled city/state. It was located at the entrance of the mountain passes. Thus, it had a strategic position. It had a double wall – one inner and one outer. In between the walls were rooms. These rooms were used for storage or stables. Only the poorest people, the outcasts and the prostitutes/harlots lived in these rooms.

Rahab, a harlot, apparently kept up with the news. She knew about the dry passing at the Red Sea and about the demise of the two kings of the Amorites. The mighty acts of God convinced her that Jericho was doomed. So, she lodged the two Hebrew spies. When someone snitched on her, she hid the spies under the flax drying on the roof. Once the immediate danger had passed by Rahab - giving the authorities a false trail to follow – she negotiated her own terms with Joshua's spies.



*Flax prepared for drying*

She first issued a statement of her faith (v. 11b). She then asked the spies to “swear to her by the Lord” for protection for her and her family. After a bit of back and forth, the promise was made. Rahab let the men out via a rope through a window, with details of travel plans for them: “Hide in the hills for three days until the pursuers return.” To ensure Rahab's safety, she was told to tie a scarlet cord in the window – the first GPS!

Rahab's faith is what saved her, a Canaanite woman, whose faith was accompanied by works. Already in the Old Testament God is welcoming an outcast (John 3:16), the inclusion

of a people not of the chosen nation of Israel. Accordingly, her faith is recounted in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews and James references it in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of his epistle.

Sometimes admitting our faith causes us to act differently and can be terrifying. But, “without faith it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder to those who see him” (Hebrews 11:6). I pray we all can emulate Rahab – even a little bit.

For an excellent fictional narrative of this story, read pages 129-135 in The Book of God by Walter Wangerin, Jr. This was published by Zondervon in 1996.

#### *Sources Consulted:*

*Johnston, Don. “Joshua and Rahab in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11).” 2 August 2022. Reasons for Hope\*Jesus. 5 Nov 2020.*

*<[reasonforhopejesus.com/Joshua-and-rahab-in-the-hall-of-faith-hebrews11](http://reasonforhopejesus.com/Joshua-and-rahab-in-the-hall-of-faith-hebrews11)>*

*Mindel, Nissan. “Rahab.” 2 August 2022. Kehot Publication Society. N.d. <[Chabad.org/library](http://Chabad.org/library)>*

*The New Bible Commentary: Revised. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1973. 236, 239-240.*

*The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 1074.*



BY FAITH THE WALLS OF JERICO FELL  
DOWN AFTER THEY HAD BEEN  
CIRCLED FOR SEVEN DAYS.  
HEBREWS 11:30



## FLAX – IMPORTANT EVEN TODAY

As flax is mentioned throughout the Bible, I thought a primer on flax might be helpful.

Flax grows about 3' high. It produces blue flowers. It was grown in Egypt prior to the Exodus and later in Canaan. When harvested, the stalks are soaked and laid out to dry. (In Rahab's story the stalks were dried on the roof.) Fibers are then separated from the stalks by beating (the two steps are called breaking and scutching) and then by combing (also called hackling). Once the fibers are exposed, they are spun into yarns and threads. These are used to make linen fabrics or rope.

Also, flax seed supplies oil when pressed. It is called linseed oil and today is used in the manufacturing of linoleum and pharmaceuticals.

#### *Sources Consulted:*

*The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 425.*

*Flax to Linen. Frontier Culture Museum. Staunton, VA. n.d.*



## FALL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Join with us this fall as we offer three new learning opportunities!

Descriptions of each study are included below.

Please register on our website from the homepage or through the calendar.

You can also call the church office at 610-369-1024 to sign up.

#### **Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived by Rob Bell (7 sessions) Sunday, October 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 13, 20 and December 4 at 10:45 am**

Leaders: Becky and Scott Scheiry | Location: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Bell believes that Jesus' story is first and foremost about the love of God for every single one of us. Bell asserts there are a growing number who have become acutely aware that Jesus' story has been hijacked by other stories, stories Jesus isn't interested in telling, because they have nothing to do with what Jesus came to do. The plot has been lost, and it's time to reclaim it. Rob Bell wrote this book because the kind of faith Jesus invites us into doesn't skirt the big questions about topics like God and Jesus and salvation and judgment and heaven and hell but takes us deep into the heart of them.

#### **The Freedom of Self – Forgetfulness by Timothy and Kathy Keller (4 sessions) Tuesday, October 18, 25 and November 1, 8 at 6:30 pm**

Leader: Brian Moatz | Location: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

In an age where pleasing people, inflating our egos, and building the perfect resumé are the primary goals of society, what would a super-naturally changed heart look like? Focusing on 1 Corinthians 3:21–4:7, they reveal that truly joyful, gospel-humble people aren't self-hating or self-loving, they're simply self-forgetting.

#### **Sharing the Gospel with Ease by Thom S. Rainer (4 sessions) Thursday, October 20, 27 and November 3, 10 at 6:30 pm**

Leader: Pastor Bob | Location: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thom Rainer answers the question, "Why is it so difficult to share our love of Christ?" Learn why we hesitate. Identify common objections and how to respond confidently and gracefully. Discover the three greatest barriers to communicating the gospel and how to overcome them. Then watch how God works through us to draw others to God.





## PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Hannah Scheiry, teacher & aide

It is a beautiful time for new beginnings, with the leaves changing and fall just beginning. Our students have started in their classes and their beautiful personalities are coming out.

In September we had a spectacular open house. All of the children got to come in and see their classrooms for the first time. With very warm hearts the teachers welcomed everyone. Later in September we were able to welcome all the parents and kids to a movie night.

As October goes on there are many fun things planned! The first big event is fire safety and prevention week, which is the second week of October. We are very blessed to have our local fire company come to the church for the children to see the fire trucks and meet some of the firefighters. Later in the month we will host our fall scavenger hunt,



which was a great success last year! The preschoolers will bring donations to be given to a local food pantry and then they start their trick-or-treat hunt around Boyertown. The preschool pairs up with local businesses and the children search through town looking for a symbol or image in their window. They all come back with full bellies and a bag full of treats.

We are very blessed for the new school year. One of our goals for all of the preschoolers is for them to know how much God truly does love them. One way we are able to do that is through the church's donation of a Spark children's Bible for every student. Now God's love can be shared at home and with family.

Thank you to everyone for all the beautiful blessings we have received as a preschool. I am beyond excited to share God's unending love.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Hannah Scheiry                 | 17 Dave Eidle<br>Abbe Grofe     |
| 2 Leonard Crowdell               | 20 Jill Koch                    |
| 4 Lauren Frey<br>Dot Pollock     | 21 Aloma Nagel<br>Craig Pollock |
| 6 Nancy McElwee<br>Ashley Heintz | 22 Marlys Haws                  |
| 7 Harry Crump<br>Bunny Riffle    | 24 Phillip Derr                 |
| 8 Michael Gilbert                | 25 Christine Miller             |
| 9 Donald Losch                   | 26 William Swavely              |
| 11 Wendy Gheer                   | 27 Bill Smith                   |
| 12 Carol Eidle<br>Bruce Guinther | 28 Alexis Cook<br>Joseph Stout  |
| 13 Cathy Krause                  | 31 Lauryn Levan                 |
| 15 Noah Hertzog                  |                                 |

**Save the date**

#### **PRESCHOOL SCAVENGER HUNT**

Saturday, October 22

#### **PRESCHOOL FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday, November 20 @ 9:30am

### Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

**Monday, October 10** for November issue  
**Monday, November 14** for December issue  
**Monday, December 12** for January issue

# OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8:00a Council Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>2</b> 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 11:00a Roll of Honor Dedication	<b>3</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:30a Preschool Staff 2:00p Homelessness Task Force 6:30p Worship Team	<b>6</b> Operation 143 Delivery 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>7</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>8</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>9</b> 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>10</b> Columbus Day Preschool Closed 5:00p Newsletter Submission 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>11</b> 6:30p Finance Team	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>14</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>15</b> 8:00a Worship Team 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>16</b> 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>17</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 6:30p Congregation Council	<b>20</b> Operation 143 Delivery 9:00a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>21</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>22</b> Preschool Scavenger Hunt 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>23</b> 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>24</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>25</b> 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown Board	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service w/ Holy Communion 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>28</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>29</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>30</b> Reformation Sunday 9:30a Worship Celebration	<b>31</b> 6:00p Light the Night 6:30p Girl Scouts					

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day	Special Service	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
10/2/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	17th Sunday after Pentecost		Randy Rupert	Shannon Omlor	Ros Moatz	Ashley Gheer	Charles Haddad, Phil Haddad, Ros & Brian Moatz	Sarah Eidle
10/9/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	18th Sunday after Pentecost		Becky Scheiry	Sarah Eidle	Susan & Andy Varzally	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Ed Schaeffer, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Abbe Grofe
10/16/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	19th Sunday after Pentecost		Nancy Graver	Olivia Alderfer	Bonnie Moatz	Chase Sennott	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Susan & Andy Varzally	Nyla Omlor
10/23/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	20th Sunday after Pentecost		Karen Pollock	Shannon Omlor	Tom Engle	Myles Omlor	Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Sandy & Terry Wade	Jason Eidle
10/30/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Reformation Day		Brian Moatz	Sarah Eidle	Michele Eidle	Ashley Gheer	Joanne Dykie, Charles Haddad, Gerry Krause, Terry Wadsworth	Shannon Omlor
11/6/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	All Saints Day		Tom Engle	Shannon Omlor	Sue Grofe	Brianna Rohrbach	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Ros & Brian Moatz	Scott Scheiry
11/13/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	23rd Sunday after Pentecost		Amy Moyer	Olivia Alderfer	Nancy Graver	Chase Sennott	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Sarah Eidle
11/20/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Christ is King	Preschool Family Service No Sunday School	Susan Hill	Shannon Omlor	Jean Machamer	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake, Lauren Frey, Bill Rohrbach	Jason Eidle
11/23/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service		Tom Engle	Sarah Eidle	Karen Pollock	Ashley Gheer	Charles Haddad, Phil Haddad	Abbe Grofe
11/27/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 1		Mel Roth	Olivia Alderfer	Mel Roth	Brianna Rohrbach	Joanne Dykie, Mike Gilbert, Barbara Houpp, Ed Schaeffer	Nyla Omlor
11/30/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM		Midweek Advent	TBD	Sarah Eidle	NA	Chase Sennott	Sandy & Terry Wade	Shannon Omlor

# 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 September 26, 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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God's work. Our hands.