EAGLE MESSENGER



Published by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown, PA

NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Friends,

You were made with a purpose.

At St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church you will find an unwavering commitment to joining with others in affirming the faith practices that grow out of our baptism as we "...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; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

During the past two years, dozens of our members have done more than just talk about our purpose and the baptismal promises. Dozens of our members have gathered casually and formally in small groups, brief sessions and overnight retreats to experience prayer, Bible study, and holy conversation together. Our reason for gathering has always been to discern and to commit to a shared common purpose that is connected to God's will - that all people would be reconciled to God and be set free to embrace and believe that God loves them.

"The point is, when Jesus invites you to follow him, he invites you to be who you are and see what you have for the sake of doing what matters to God. "You" really means you. Jesus' call to follow him is an invitation to freedom. There is nothing you need to be, earn, buy, build, or acquire in order to be useful to God. There is no need for fear, embarrassment, anxiety, or shame. You can't be too old or too young, too rich, or too poor. There's no such thing as inadequate. Jesus sees you, knows you, calls you, and is setting you free to put exactly who you are and what you have into the service of God's loving mission." - excerpt from The Future Starts Now

Thank you, God, for partners willing to stand together and uphold our collectively discerned Purpose without compromise. What is our Purpose? 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 (Guiding Principles):

- 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 (Strategic Directives):

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

We are committed to upholding high standards that bring glory to God. Every ministry, without exception or compromise, in this congregation (ex. worship, learning, preschool, congregation council, small groups, service beyond our street address with our community) stands together through an ongoing covenant that includes continued focused work on:

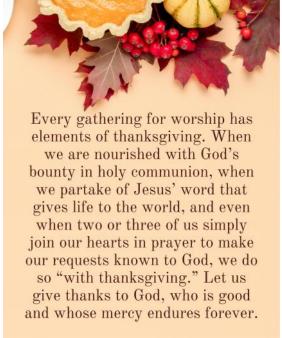
- Alignment in mission with the Purpose Statement of St.
 John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Alignment with the organizational chart of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Alignment with the Guiding Principles of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Clarity of expectations for each ministry
- Clarity of expectations and responsibilities of all staff
- Development of goals discerned by all stakeholders to achieve the mission as stated above.
- Assessment of goals discerned by all stakeholders to achieve the mission stated above.

What do you get when you do this? You get what the disciples got about a month after that first Easter morning recorded in Acts 1:6-8:

"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority — I don't even know! But you will receive all kinds of power when the Holy Spirit fills you up; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Be blessed! Pastor Bob

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 | 9:30 AM

We will celebrate all of God's Saints, those living as well as those who have died in Christ. As is our custom, we will name aloud in our prayers that day all members who have died during the past year.

NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | 9:30 AM

Be a light to those who are waiting. National Donor Sabbath is an interfaith celebration of life and thanksgiving. It is a special time for congregations across America to learn about the critical shortage of organs and tissue and to celebrate the greatest blessing of all - LIFE. Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation at DonateLife.net.

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | 7:00 PM | ST. COLUMBKILL (200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown)

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 7:00 PM

ANNUAL CONGREGATION BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, December 11 immediately following 9:30 am worship

In accordance with Article C.10.01.01 of our constitution, the Annual Congregation Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2022, immediately following 9:30 am worship. The agenda consists of only the following items:

- presentation of the 2023 Ministry Action Plan for approval
- 2) election of Congregation Council Members

ADVENT, A NEW CHURCH YEAR

A new church year begins on Sunday, November 27 with the season of Advent: a time for waiting, watching, and preparing to remember the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ as well as to wait for his coming again. An introduction to the messages presented each week follows.

BREATHING

Advent 1 - The Hebrew word *ruach* means spirit, breath and wind. The interconnectedness of these images is clear throughout scripture. In Genesis the Spirit/wind of God blows over the waters of creation, and God breathes into the created human to give life/spirit. Who we are created to be is centered in our breathing, which connects us to the one who created us.

RELEASING

Advent 2 - Many people struggle with the concept of letting go, especially in cultures where accrual is seen as a sign of success and a guarantee of peace. The recent rise in blogs, books, and lifestyle coaches to help people reduce clutter caused by too many possessions is an indication of the stress created by our inability to let go. Worshipers may want to focus on whether they need to release material goods or a tendency to find comfort in acquiring possessions. Alternately, it may be the clutter of too many accrued holiday traditions that worshipers need to let go of.

RECEIVING

Advent 3 - To prepare ourselves to receive the Savior—and the disruption the Savior's coming brings—we lay down our own agendas and expectations and learn to open ourselves to what God brings rather than focusing on what we want or expect. God's coming into the world never fulfills human expectations; it fulfills God's expectation.

REJOICING

Advent 4 - Joy may be expressed in laughter, exuberance, and resounding music. It can also be a deep and still experience so profound that only the dark silence of the cosmos can encompass it. In whatever ways it is expressed, joy is the character of our discipleship that draws others to Christ.

(Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress)

We will gather to sing Holden Evening Prayer three Wednesdays at 7:00 pm during Advent - November 30, December 7 and 14. Take time during the busyness of the season to rest, reflect and savor the peace of this quiet worship experience.



HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT DECEMBER 4, 2022

By: Charles Haddad

After a two-year pandemic delay, it is really going to happen! That is, a performance of Handel's Messiah with the Reading Choral Society, 19-piece orchestra and the 45-member Boyertown High School Select Choir. The Christmas portion of the Messiah will be performed at the Boyertown High School auditorium on December 4, 2022 at 4:00 pm The Messiah, written by Handel, was first performed in Dublin, Ireland on April 13, 1742. Through wars and natural disasters it has been performed each year for the past 280 years.

Even though St. John's is the concert sponsor, this is a Boyertown community event. As the concert sponsor, St. John's will pay the fee for the Reading Choral Society from the David Hollowbush Memorial Music Fund. The fund was created by a bequest from the late Gloria Hollowbush in memory of her husband, David, who was a 1952 graduate of Boyertown. David was a solo tenor in the school chorus and St. John's choir when 30 plus years ago the combined community choir performed the Messiah at St. John's. Since the performance fee is covered by St. John's, it is anticipated there will be a surplus after payment of other expenses. It was the decision of our church leaders to donate the surplus revenue to the Boyertown Community Ambulance.

What can you do to help the performance be a success?

- Plan to attend with family and friends.
- ♦ Volunteer to deliver tickets to churches.
- Serve as an usher or ticket attendant at the concert.

If you'd like to join the Messiah Team, please call Charles Haddad at 484-824-4224.



DIRECTOR'S BIG BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 10 | 7:00 pm | Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

December 25 | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

TALISMAN PLAYERS

January 18 | 7:00 pm | Sanctuary

MEN'S RETREAT

February 3-5 | Off-Site



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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Meal

St. John's Christmas Day Meal returns to inside seating this year! Please pray for this ministry as we navigate a return to joining in fellowship with our neighbors.

Volunteer sign-up coming soon.

Monetary donations for the purchase of food and supplies will be accepted. Checks noting "Christmas day meal" can be mailed to the office.

Questions can be directed to Noelle Erb at noelledierolf@gmail.com.



SMALL GROUP TESTIMONIAL

by Bill Smith

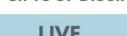
- Relevant subjects are offered.
- Respect and sincerity of members very evident.
- Belief in the trinity is spoken.
- Learning and understanding of the Bible is always stressed.
- Why the Bible was given to us and our response to what we learn.
- Why we love God and love neighbor.
- I will continue to participate.

Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Note: Earlier deadlines because of holidays!

Monday, November 7 for December issue Monday, December 5 for January issue Monday, January 9 for February issue

GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP





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

NEW MEMBERS

Brenda McAuley originally lived in the Daniel Boone area very near St. Gabriel's Church, but she moved to the Boyertown area when her children were born. Jacob is her oldest son, then Justin and Aiden. Aiden, a junior at Boyertown High School, was baptized at St. John's years ago, and her sons attended St. John's Preschool.

Brenda owns her own cleaning business. Some of her pre-COVID clients were Boyertown Library and the Colebrookdale Railroad. At the present time, she takes care of the Lords and Ladies Salon and the Gilbertsville Veterinarian Clinic. As you can imagine, she is a very busy lady!

She enjoys family time with her sons and 2 boxers for her relaxation, and her dream vacation would be to visit Italy.

Jacob and Paige McAuley also became members of St. John's, as well as having their seven -month old son, Luka, baptized. Paige grew up in this area, living in Gilbertsville. Jacob and Paige met at Boyertown High School and became high school sweethearts.

Jacob works in the vascular lab at Doylestown Hospital. Paige works with her mother-inlaw Brenda in her professional cleaning business.

Work and mothering take up most of Paige's life for now; there is not a lot of free time for hobbies. Jacob does like to fish and play golf when he has a moment available. They both

love to travel. Tennessee is one of their favorite destinations, but their last vacation was to Maine.



lacob, Paige, Luka, and Brenda McAule

Grant, Delaney, Adam, and Chelsea Hersperger

Adam and Chelsea Hersperger met at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, but Chelsea moved to New Jersey to attend Rutgers graduate school and Adam moved to Philadelphia to attend Penn graduate school. They endured a 5-year long-distance relationship before marriage.

Chelsea is a clinical psychologist specializing in anxiety disorders and Adam is an associate professor of biology at Albright College. They have 2 children, Delaney, age 8, and Grant, age 6, who attend Boyertown Elementary School.

Family and professions leave little time for hobbies, but both Chelsea and Adam love to read and to hike. Adam also bikes and lifts weights, while Chelsea enjoys cooking, baking and music.

The Herspergers plan their vacations around hiking in the woods, especially in the fall. Summer vacations find them at Ocean City, Maryland or Nags Head, North Carolina. As the children get older, the family would like to start visiting national parks.

The Herspergers chose St. John's because they were looking for a traditional worship ser-

vice, but with an inclusive and welcoming community. And even with their professional and family commitments, they hope to be able to get involved in at least some of St. John's service projects.

Bently Rick, 9-years old, was baptized recently. He is the son of RJ Rick who became a member of St.

John's in May. Bently is a fourth-grader at Coventry Christian School. His favorite subject is math. Recently he enjoyed History Day at school, in which students dressed as characters from the Middle Ages. Bently liked the knight costumes the best.

Bently is a true Philadelphia fan. He cheers for the Eagles and the Phillies. This year he is involved in basketball, but he would like to try football next year. He has read the first Harry Potter book and watched the first two Harry Potter movies with his dad. He also enjoys playing the Fortnite video game and Rubic's Cube. Bently loves traveling to Newport News, Virginia to visit relatives.





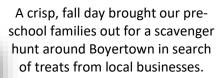








Growing and Learning in God's Love



Donations were collected for Preston's Pantry as well.







KARITAS GOING TO LEARN, RETURNING TO SERVE

By: Jen Schlegel

¡Hola!

I give thanks for the opportunity to learn, serve, and grow in faith with the following individuals who are preparing to travel to Cuernavaca, Mexico, in January 2023 to join with members of Wellspring Karitas:

Bev Blake Pastor Bob Machamer

Amanda Ehst Shannon Omlor

Jen Friz Becky Scheiry

Camryn Friz Scott Scheiry

Ashley Gheer Jen Schlegel

John Gheer



Erik Friend, our liaison with Wellspring Karitas, has encouraged us to study Luke 24:13-35 as we prepare for our trip. In this reading, there are two men walking along the road to Emmaus. Jesus, newly resurrected, joins them and asks for the latest happenings. The two men are prevented from recognizing Jesus as Jesus. And in words similar to "where have you been? Hiding under a rock these past three days?" the two men begin their accounting to Jesus about Jesus' trial, death, and the empty tomb. They tell Jesus about Jesus! When they arrive at their destination, the two men invite Jesus to share a meal with them. He joins them, and "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight." It was the men's invitation to come to the table, and Jesus' breaking of bread with them, as he had on the night he was betrayed, that allowed their eyes to be opened. Jesus disappeared, and the men went to find the disciples and confirm the women's account of the resurrection. The men thought they knew the whole story. The men had the audacity to tell Jesus about Jesus' own experience. In coming to the table, and in the breaking of the bread, their eyes were opened to the truth, experiencing God as Jesus and neighbor.

We ask for your prayers that all of us are open to experiencing God's truth in the work being done through the people we encounter, learn from, and journey alongside in our day to day lives. Pray that those heading to Cuernavaca resist any need to tell people about their own experiences and embrace the truths that people are willing to share in the breaking of bread together.



A gifting opportunity: As we continue preparations, please look for requests to help fund tool kits for ALEM! ALEM is a team made up of physically challenged people. Their objective is to provoke individuals to: stop, think, and challenge their perception of ability and participation. They have deposited their feelings and their ideas into a program that goes beyond repairing wheelchairs. They ask questions, they challenge, they innovate, and they try to share the idea that a wheelchair is more than an orthopedic instrument. ALEM is growing, and we can help them grow by sponsoring tools to be used in their second workshop. Watch for requests to fund tool kits in the coming weeks!



ENGAGE



SHARE



GROW



NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1:00p Women's Fellowship 6:30p The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness	9:30a Preschool Chapel Time 11:30a Preschool Staff 12:45p Preschool Chapel Time 2:00p Homelessness Task Force 6:30p Worship Team	Operation 143 Delivery 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p Sharing the Gospel with Ease 8:00p Worship Broadcast	4 Preschool Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	5 4:30p Come to the Table
6 All Saints Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Wins	7 Preschool Student Pictures 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts	8 Preschool Student Pictures 6:30p The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness 6:30p Finance Team	9 6:30p Welcoming All	10 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p Sharing the Gospel with Ease 8:00p Worship Broadcast	11 Veteran's Day Office Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	4:30p Come to the Table
9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Acolyte Training 10:45a Love Wins 3:30p Mighty Atom Truck	14 Bishop's Conference 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	15 Bishop's Conference	16 9:15a Connect 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 6:30p Congregation Council	17 Operation 143 Delivery 9:00a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p Holy Lands Presentation 8:00p Worship Broadcast	18 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 9:00a Preschool Gym Class	19 4:30p Come to the Table
20 Christ the King 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Wins	21 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Thanksgiving Community Service	22 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown Board	23 Preschool Closed 7:00p Thanksgiving Eve Worship Celebration	24 Thanksgiving Preschool Closed Office Closed 8:00p Worship Broadcast	25 Preschool Closed Office Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	26 4:30p Come to the Table
27 Advent 1 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Wins	28 Preschool Closed 7:00p State Theatre Board 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	29	30 7:00p Midweek Advent Service		1	I

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day	Special Service	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
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		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 Houp, Ed Schaeffer	Nyla Omlor
11/30/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM		Midweek Advent	Shannon Omlor	Sarah Eidle	NA	Chase Sennott	Sandy & Terry Wade	Shannon Omlor
12/4/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 2		Dave Long	Shannon Omlor	Lauren Frey	Myles Omlor	Scott Scheiry, Susan & Andy Varzally, Terry Wadsworth	Sarah Eidle
12/7/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM		Midweek Advent	Amanda Ehst	Shannon Omlor	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Ros & Brian Moatz	Abbe Grofe
12/11/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 3		Krista Fretz	Olivia Alderfer	Martha Bentley	Chase Sennott	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Jay Herbert, Gerry Krause	Nyla Omlor
12/14/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM		Midweek Advent	Bob Machamer	Shannon Omlor	NA	Ashley Gheer	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Jason Eidle
12/18/2022	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 4		Missy Endy	Sarah Eidle	Friz Family	Myles Omlor	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Shannon Omlor
12/21/2022	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Blue Christmas			Shannon Omlor	Bonnie Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Ros & Brian Moatz	Scott Scheiry
12/24/2022	Saturday	3:00 PM	Christmas Eve			Sarah Eidle	Martha Bentley	Chase Sennott	Martha Bentley, Jay Herbert, Ed Schaeffer, Carol Sematis	Jason Eidle
12/24/2022	Saturday	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve	Candlelight		Shannon Omlor	Lauren Frey	Ashley Gheer	Bev & Joe Blake, Ben Rohrbach, Bill Rohrbach	Scott Scheiry
12/25/2022	Sunday	10:30 AM	Christmas Day		Terry Wade	Sarah Eidle	Terry Wade	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Sandy & Terry Wade	Abbe Grofe

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Diane Cordero	Kathleen Smith	Nancy Graver		
6 Ashley Gheer	7 Angela Alexander Richard Derr	8	9	10 Donnie Heimbach	11	12 Amy Quinter
	Karen Lewis					
13 Alex Forsyth	14 Scott Scheiry	15 Bonnie Moatz	16	Jim Kershner	18 Christine Boice	Linda Schlegel Chelsea Boyer Salie Derr Oliver Cook
20 David Haws	21 Colleen Ritter	22	23	24	25 Patricia Strunk	26 Gail Longacre
27 Barbara Schaeffer	28 Adam Hersperger	29	30			
			Hap	py Bir-	rnaay!	

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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- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
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- 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 October 27, 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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