

EAGLE MESSENGER



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APRIL 2024

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP † INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS † SACRIFICIAL SERVICE † RADICAL GENEROSITY

For this April 2024 edition of our congregation's newsletter, I'll start with a gigantic thank you to all of you who participated in moving our congregation closer to God by examining how we see ourselves through the metrics of spiritual gifts through the use of a spiritual gift assessment tool. Thank you! We are, in a matter of weeks, already strengthening our congregation by discovering and affirming the gifts God has gifted our members and collectively our congregation. These "gifts", when linked to our purpose, build up Christ's body – the Church. Getting God's children aligned with their strengths takes a little time but/and pays off in huge dividends. Supported by prayer, studying the Word of God, and through face to face relationships we see God at work in this ministry. This likely comes as no surprise to those who understand the alignment of our gifts, and doing things that matter with God will result in renewed energy, confidence, and trust in their creator. God delights in God's creation – especially when we are doing what we were designed to do. Spiritual growth is measured less by the visible numbers of people in the pews but by the unseen – people's attitudes, beliefs, thoughts, and feelings. We want to know what moves people at the deepest levels.



We say every generation needs to find its own way. Why do we then fight over the methods of how to serve together? Hold on too closely and too long to your past and I guarantee you will succeed at missing opportunities, and you will end up right there – in the past. You'll miss opportunities that God has for you right here and right now. Staying closely attached to core values and basic principles is always more important than the methods or the ways we do things. Method is about imitation. Principles are core values. In the context of worship, method is the involvement of the choir, the lectors, and the instrumentalists, while the principle is to connect people with God both as an individual and as a member of this community of faith. My friend, Pastor Dave Daubert, shared in a blog a summary statement of the answer to his question - what people want in church - "Help people know what they believe, find the words to say it, and help them make choices about how to live it out." I agree!

Spiritual growth mandates effort and commitment. There is very little 'surprise' in the surprising truth about spiritual growth. "For as long as anyone can remember, the only question we knew to ask about the church was, "How many?" But "How many?", by itself, doesn't completely address what the church is called to do. That question is a good start, but it measures only what we see. When it comes to spiritual growth, we need to be able to measure the unseen. We need a glimpse of people's attitudes, thoughts, and feelings. We need words that reveal the heart of each person. We want to know what moves them at the deepest levels". -- excerpt from Hawkins and Parkinson's book "REVEAL: Where Are You?"

Involvement in church activities does not predict or drive long-term spiritual growth. Spiritual growth is all about increasing relational closeness to Christ. "If the activities of the church are all about turning people toward Christ and encouraging them to grow spiritually, why doesn't there appear to be a solid connection between participation in church activities and spiritual growth?" "Why is there this disconnect?" "The quick answer: Because God 'wired' us first and foremost to be in a growing relationship with him—not the church. That's what's so amazing about this research—it sheds the bright light of science on the biblical truth that we are wired to seek God. As we draw closer to God, we begin to see a dramatic change in how we live our lives and relate to other people." -- excerpt from Hawkins and Parkinson's book "REVEAL: Where Are You?"

Be Blessed!
Pastor Bob

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DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAG & MAP?

By: Jen Friz

There are two acronyms that you should know as an active and engaged member of St. John's Evangelical Church in Boyertown...

MAG and **MAP**.

MAG – Ministry Action Group

There are five MAGs that are described in Chapter 13 of our Constitution: *Worship, Witness, Support, Service and Learning*. You'll hear more about these MAGs in future newsletters.

Each elected member of our 2024 Congregation Council has been assigned as a liaison to one of the MAGs. The Council members will work together with staff and other members of the congregation through study of scripture, prayer, and holy conversation to examine the purpose of each of the MAGs per our Constitution and evaluate our ministries in that context along with St. John's purpose.

MAGs and the ministries within them work throughout the year to plan and execute against that plan. Ideally, the MAGs would come together several times a year in a MAG meeting and share the outlook for their ministries and that collective team can look for opportunities to collaborate and enhance one another's activities. Most of our ministries have synergies and hit on several MAGs, so there are lots of opportunities for cross-MAG support. Frankly, we have not done this well over the last few years, but will strive to improve on this in 2024.

MAP – Ministry Action Plan

For decades St. John's had a budget. It was pages of numbers in a spreadsheet form that indicated where the congregation had planned to spend money in the upcoming year. For many people, it wasn't clear how those dollars were translated into ministries to support the development of faith and serve the community.

Today, St. John's utilizes a MAP. This is a one-page summary of the plans for the upcoming year. There are a few numbers on that page, but the numbers are brought to life with detailed descriptions of the plans and goals for each of the MAGs at St. John's. The MAGs work together with the finance team to develop this MAP. The MAP does have a full, detailed budget behind it, as well as a detailed annual report with all the numbers. But more importantly, to describe the work of the church, we use vivid depictions through words and pictures of how the resources of St. John's (dollars, facility, people, time, talents, etc.) are utilized to fulfill our purpose.

Keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open to see what our MAGs are up to in 2024 and prayerfully consider how you might join in.

Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, April 8 for May issue

Monday, May 13 for June issue

Monday, June 10 for July issue

Scripture Egg Hunt

Join us on a hunt for scripture throughout the church.
All ages welcome!

Sunday, April 7
meet in Fellowship Hall
following worship

Hot dogs & drinks provided.
RSVP online by April 1



Hosted by Joyful Sisters of Service



The poster features a photograph of people cutting potatoes at a table under a red canopy. The St. John's Boyertown logo is in the top right. The text reads: "Potato Project Seed Cutting", "Cut potatoes for the growing season pick up & cut at home - April 18 or cut on-site at St. John's - April 20", and "scan to register by April 15" with a QR code. A logo for "Heart Harvest, Inc. A CHRISTIAN FOOD MINISTRY" is also present.

Two ways to do seed cutting this year!

Pick up a 50-lb bag (or more than one) and take them home to cut or join us at church to cut.
It takes approximately 30 minutes to cut a 50-lb bag.

PICK UP - Thurs., April 18 @ 7:30pm

St. John's Parking Lot

DROP OFF - Sat., April 20 between 10:00am-2:00pm

St. John's Parking Lot

— and/or —

Seed Cutting at St. John's - Sat., April 20
between 10:00am-2:00pm

St. John's Parking Lot (rain or shine)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS?

By: Tatum Friz

In January, I took my first trip out of the country to Mexico to experience how other cultures live. One thing I noticed in Mexico is that everyone treated each other like family. This made me think of intentional relationships and how that is a big part of our life and what we do at St. John's.

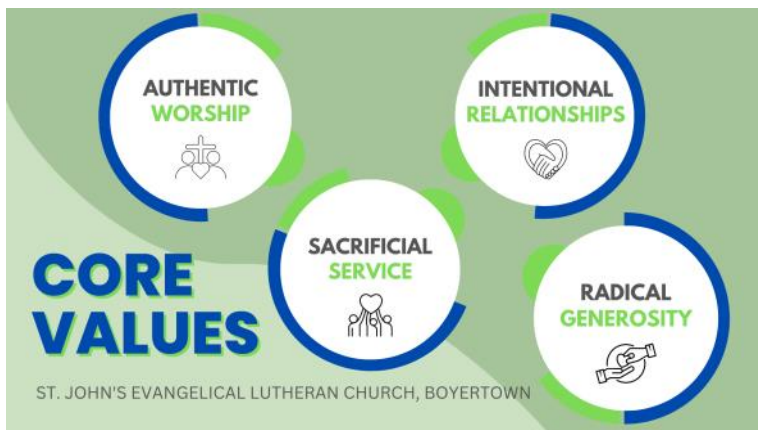
One example was at the community center in La Estacion, the migrant settlement community. Every morning a team of moms from the school would use the kitchen and cook breakfast for the kids at school and kids in the community. Giving food to people you might know or might not know shows that you have a close community with many relationships. We do this at St. John's by serving meals at Come to the Table (or I like to call it Come to the Drive Thru) every Saturday night.

Another example of intentional relationships was at ALEM, the wheelchair repair shop. Three of us were asked to use a wheelchair the whole time we were there. I was one of the people who got to sit in a wheelchair, and this was to feel how their life is every day. It was really hard to use the wheelchair at first, then it got easier with practice, and we played games that made it a lot of fun. That was a way our team showed intentional relationships with others.

Why are intentional relationships important? *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* Matthew 22: 37-39



Tatum Friz, Camryn Friz, and Abbe Grofe experience maneuvering about in a wheelchair.



Members Ashley Gheer and Tatum Friz recently shared their experiences from St. John's trip to Mexico (Wellspring Karitas) at a Boyertown Rotary meeting. They shared Karitas' initiative to provide water capture and filtration systems to migrant camps, and invited Boyertown Rotary to join in this effort, which aligns with Rotary's area of focus for providing clean water and sanitation.



WHAT'S GOD UP TO IN PRESCHOOL?

By: Amy Daub, Preschool Teacher

As the lead teacher for the three-year old classes, I've seen how far these little kids have come since they started back in September. Back then they were scared, shy, and nervous, and for most it was their first time in a school setting and away from their parents. They have learned how to follow classroom and school rules, to walk in a line, and how to take turns, share, and play together. Now they come into school eager to learn and play with each other. I am so proud of all they have accomplished this year.

In the past month, we have had lots of fun events in preschool. The first week of March was Read Across America Week where we read many Dr. Seuss books and enjoyed some fun spirit days such as hat day, silly sock day, and favorite color day. We even went on a bear hunt all around the building searching for different color bears that were hiding. We have also been learning about St. Patrick's Day and making rainbows, pots of gold, and little leprechauns. Our 3-year olds have counted down the days until the first day of spring.

This past month brought use of our new gym space! There are balls, balance beams, hula hoops, tunnels, and lots of other fun things to play with and explore. It is a safe place to run and practice our gross motor skills.

As Easter approaches we will be talking about Jesus the Good Shepherd, and all about Easter and how Jesus died for us, and we will be reading The Easter Story in our classes. After Easter we will read about going and spreading the good news about Jesus, and also reading about the Holy Spirit coming.

April 14 is Preschool Family Sunday at worship and all of the classes have been learning some special songs to sing to the congregation. We hope everyone will come out for that special service to see the wonderful things St. John's has been up to!

GOING ON A BEAR HUNT!



GYM TIME FUN!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
4/7/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday of Easter	Delaney Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Dorothy & Walter Breitreutz	Randy Rupert	Sarah Eidle	Nathan Wanish	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Gerry Krause, Ed Schaeffer, Scott Scheiry	Jason Eidle
4/14/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Third Sunday of Easter	Delaney Hersperger	Mel Roth, Jen Schlegel	Mary Kay Heimbach, Lauri Stofflet	Bethany Calderwood, Missy Endy	Shannon Omlor	Karen Pollock	Myles Omlor	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Camryn Friz
4/21/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Philip Derr	Amanda Ehst, Lauren Frey	Melissa Eidle, Shirley Hartman	Terry Wade	Jason Friz	Jean Machamer	Melissa Eidle	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Susan & Andy Varzally	Abbe Grofe
4/28/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Camryn Friz	Tom Engle, Jen Friz	Sue Hill, Donna Little	Jen Friz	Olivia Alderfer	Sue Grofe	Ashley Gheer	Martha Bentley, Joanne Dykie, Barbara Houp, Nathan Wanish	Nathan Wanish
5/5/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Alina Friz	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Andy Varzally	Sarah Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Brianna Rohrbach	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer	Scott Scheiry
5/9/2024	Thursday	7:00 PM	Ascension of Our Lord	Tatum Friz	Bev & Joe Blake	Mary Kay Heimbach	Bev Blake	Shannon Omlor	Michele Eidle	Melissa Eidle	Ros & Brian Moatz	Justin Jones
5/12/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Philip Derr	Melissa Eidle, George Hill	Dorothy & Walter Breitreutz	Dave Babb	Jason Friz	Mel Roth	Myles Omlor	Phil Haddad, Sandy & Terry Wade, Nathan Wanish	Jason Eidle
5/19/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	Bonnie Moatz, Becky Scheiry	Jodi Dykie, Bonnie Moatz	Missy Endy	Olivia Alderfer	Tom Engle	Ashley Gheer	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Camryn Friz
5/26/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	The Holy Trinity	Camryn Friz	Michele & Dave Eidle	Paula Kriebel, Jean Machamer	Michele Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Martha Bentley	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Gerry Krause, Ed Schaeffer, Scott Scheiry	Abbe Grofe

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Preschool Closed	2 12:00p Preschool Staff	3 Oley Cluster 6:30p Worship Team	4 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	5 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	6 4:30p Come to the Table
7 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a New Member Class 11:00a Egg Hunt	8 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club	9 12:00p Preschool Conferences 6:00p BASH Swim Team Banquet	10	11 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	12 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 6:00p Preschool Retreat	13 8:00a Preschool Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
14 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Coffee & Conversation	15 6:30p Girl Scouts	16 6:30p Finance Team	17 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 6:30p Congregation Council	18 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:30p Potato Pickup 8:00p Worship Broadcast	19 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	20 8:00a Potato Drop off and Onsite Seed Cutting 4:30p Come to the Table
21 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration	22 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club	23 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown	24	25 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 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 Sunday School 9:30a Worship Celebration	29 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p State Theatre Board	30 Staff - Drive Conference				

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Nikkie Cutaneo	3	4	5 Becky Erb	6
7	8	9 Melissa Geary Rachael Geary	10	11 Charlie Grofe	12	13 Patricia Richards
14 Missy Endy Carole Frey	15	16	17	18	19 Richard Spohn	20 Dennis Frey
21 Jane Dierolf Jason Friz John Gheer II	22 Kaylee Boyer Thomas Huber	23 Barbara Miller	24 David Leister	25	26 Paul Moatz Jr	27 Edward Adamski
28	29	30 Camryn Friz				

Happy Birthday



EAGLE MESSENGER

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As children of God and disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate and lift up people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, economic statuses, political affiliation, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

Return Service Request - Dated Material
Mailed March 22, 2024

WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM ON YOUTUBE

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Pastor Bob Machamer

Kay Christman, Finance Team

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

Renae McClelland, Director of Preschool Ministry

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.