

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I thank God for you. Thank you for hearing the Spirit's call to engage the world that our God created for us to love. You show me, when my eyes are focused on what God is up to, that you know that there is an infinite and replenishable source of energy, creativity, passion, and intelligence in our families, our members, and our community leaders and volunteers. It continues to be a privilege to join you in figuring out how to tap into those God-given talents. I've learned from you lessons that the world does not teach. Together we have learned that individually or collectively we don't have to be the smartest person or even the loudest voice in the room. In fact, we shouldn't be. Together we have learned that we don't need to know all the answers. We do, however, need to be confident enough to ask the right questions. You've heard me say hundreds of times the way forward is always preceded by asking purposeful questions. For many of you reading this brief message you are already committed to this way of working together at St. John's. A number of you have shared with me that you have integrated this in your workplace and even in your family discussions.

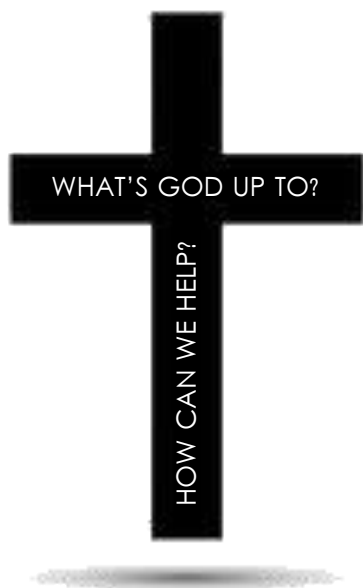
Among those new to St. John's and our ministries someone might be asking, "What is a purposeful question?" The quick answer - for those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ - a purposeful question is always a God question. Why? Because we know that the purpose of our lives, individually and together, is intimately connected to what God is up to. God is on a mission to reconcile the whole creation and set people free, and we are called to be a part of that mission. That call is what gives our lives meaning. Being a part of what God is up to is the very point of our lives. This is true for our everyday lives, wherever we live, work, learn, play, and serve. And it is true for our life together as the church.

A purposeful question reconnects the organization you love to who you are and what really matters to you...your own unique purpose, your vision, and your guiding principles. It's easier, of course, to ask purposeful questions if you already have discerned a common sense of purpose, your guiding principles, and directional vision through a highly participative process. Why does all of this matter? Because without a common and clear purpose, people (and the organization you care about) perish.

You have been able to articulate faith and the way you want to live life abundantly in a way that is compelling to others, inside and outside our organization. I believe that your commitment to asking the number one purposeful question, "What in the world is God up to... and how can we help?", is a testimony to your willingness to do whatever it takes to join God in doing what matters. Keep engaging that blessed work. Keep that one simple purposeful question in the middle of the room at all times and every single circumstance.

I thank God for your willingness revealed in your effort, in too many hours than I can count, and in the passion you have invested in discerning what you believe God wants at the heart of our ministries. I am truly grateful for your partnership. I've listened when you've spoken in meetings. I've heard you extend the invitation to others to participate in programming. Reading your Lenten devotional contributions fed my soul. Truly, you humble me.

Be blessed!
Pastor Bob



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Worship News

PAGE 2

Prayer Shawl Ministry

PAGE 2

Being a Peacemaker

PAGE 3

Small Group Learning

PAGE 4

UPCOMING WORSHIP

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

The Time after Pentecost in the Lutheran Church is the longest season of the liturgical year, stretching from the day after Pentecost Sunday until the beginning of Advent. It focuses on the growth and life of the Church through the work of the Holy Spirit. During this time, readings and teachings emphasize Jesus' ministry, Christian discipleship, and spiritual maturity. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth and life in faith. This season invites believers to live out their baptismal calling in everyday life.

SUNDAY, JULY 20 @ 9:30 AM

Baptism & New Members Received

Join us in welcoming these families into our faith community! Coffee & Conversation will be held after worship in the Lower Level.

SUNDAY, JULY 27 @ 9:30 AM

Handbells ring at worship

On Sunday, June 8, Thomas Daub made public Affirmation of his Baptism.
We celebrate with you, Thomas!



**Preschool Classes
for 3 and 4-year olds
& Transitional Kindergarten**

Educating and enriching children's lives
for over 50 years!

Call us for more info
610.367.0197

**New
Offering**

**'Me and You' Playgroup
for 2-year-olds &
their caregiver**



Joyful Sisters of Service

The Joyful Sisters of Service are revitalizing St. John's Prayer Shawl Ministry. These handmade shawls are lovingly made and then blessed by the church and distributed to anyone who is either going through a difficult time, such as an illness or a loss, or someone who is celebrating a joyful occasion, such as a marriage or a new birth.

If you knit or crochet, and would like to work on a Prayer Shawl, or if you know someone who is going through one of these situations, please contact the Joyful Sisters through the church office at 610.369.1024.



**Church Office Closed
Friday, July 4**



TRAINING PEACEMAKERS IN PRESCHOOL AND BEYOND

By: Bethany Calderwood

In preschool we have big goals such as A-B-Cs, 1-2-3s, independence, problem solving, and peacemaking. Maybe we know how to address the first few goals, but what about peacemaking?

When we look for peace, we aren't just looking for a quiet moment in the classroom or a breather between kids' needs and activities. Peacemakers take action. What actions can children learn to help them become peacemakers? Peace has two directions—vertical and horizontal—and children can learn to make peace in both directions.

Peace is vertical: between an individual and God. Building this vertical peace is crucial, and it's never too early to start.

Talk to God. When something is hard or confusing, we can ask God for help.

Check if we are doing things God's way. God's ways are designed to help us live well with God and with one another.

Receive strength, calm, and joy from the assurance of God's presence. God is with us all the time.

Peace is horizontal: between an individual and other people. This involves both conflict resolution and proactively loving others.

Notice the needs of others. Consider ways to help. *James dropped his papers. Can I help pick them up? Kelly doesn't know where to go next. Can I show her?*

Ask if I am part of the conflict or problem. Is there something I need to change? *Susie is crying. We told her she could not play our game. Let's invite her to play now.*

Approach others when I feel hurt or left out. State my position and offer the other person the opportunity to make a change. *I didn't like when you knocked over my tower. I'm making another one. Please don't knock it down.*

Give second chances. *Yesterday you broke my tower and I was upset. But today is a new day. Let's play together.*

Listen to other people. Hear their stories and ideas. Respond to what they say. Don't just wait for your turn to talk.

Training peacemakers—and becoming peacemakers—is the task of a lifetime. These are only a few suggestions. Consider both how you can teach the children in your life to become stronger peacemakers, and how you can become a stronger peacemaker yourself.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

Google review for St. John's Preschool

"We couldn't be happier with this preschool. From the moment we walked in, we felt welcomed and reassured that our child would be in good hands. The teachers are incredibly kind, patient, and genuinely invested in each child's growth and happiness.

One of the things we appreciate most is how the Christian faith is gently and thoughtfully woven into the daily routine. From prayer time and Bible stories to teaching kindness, respect, and compassion, the school provides a strong moral foundation in a nurturing, faith-filled environment.

Our child looks forward to going to school every day, which speaks volumes about the joyful and enriching atmosphere they've created. The curriculum strikes a wonderful balance between academics, play, and spiritual growth, helping our child develop socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Communication with staff is excellent—they keep us updated with weekly highlights and are always available to address any questions or concerns. We've seen such positive growth in our child's confidence, language skills, and understanding of God's love.

We are so grateful my son attended here, and he is ready for kindergarten."

Post a Google review!

Subscribe to us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



2025 SUMMER SMALL GROUPS

Join with us this summer as we offer our most requested and new learning opportunities! Descriptions of each study are included below. Register on our website, after worship in the Narthex, or by calling the church office at 610-369-1024.



Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks by Diana Butler Bass

(6 sessions) Monday, July 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 11, 18 at 6:30 pm

Leader: Jennifer Schlegel | Location: St. John's Conference Room

Gratitude is resilience of sorts, the defiance of kindness in the face of anger, of connection in the face of division, and of hope in the face of fear. . . gratitude empowers us. It makes joy and love, possible. It rearranges the way we see and experience what is all around us. Gratitude makes all things new. It transforms how we understand what is broken and gives us the ability to act more joyfully and with hope. That is why gratitude is central to all the world's religions. As a practice, it embodies the wisdom of humanity's greatest spiritual teachers: the love of neighbor. Gratitude takes us from abstract belief to living compassion in the world.

Teach Us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer in the Early Church and Today by Justo González

(4 sessions) Tuesday, July 22, 29 & August 5, 12 at 6:30 pm

Leader: Bonnie Moatz | Location: St. John's Conference Room

The Lord's Prayer is one of the oldest and most widely used short summaries not only of how Christians pray but of what they believe about God, the world, and humankind. Justo González, whose textbooks have taught Christian doctrine and history to thousands of pastors, draws on scripture, the Church Fathers, and his own life experience to make this vital prayer from the Christian past comprehensible for readers who want to understand—and live—Christianity in the present. Teach Us to Pray is for all who are learning or practicing Christian discipleship and ministry, from college students and motivated laypeople to veteran pastors and teachers.

Lutheran Trump Cards by Dave Daubert

(5 sessions) Monday, September 15, 22, 29 & October 6, 13 at 6:30 pm

Leader: Jennifer Schlegel | Location: St. John's Conference Room

This small group offering dives into Lutheran Protestantism. Learn more about core Lutheran theology as explained in *Lutheran Trump Cards*. This is an accessible and brief text by Dave Daubert, a Lutheran pastor, teacher, consultant, and coach. Daubert provides insights to what it means to be a Lutheran Christian and how to practice Lutheran Christianity in the contemporary church. Come learn about our core Lutheran values and how we might enhance them in our Lutheran community that is St. John's. This class is appropriate for anyone who wants to gain or refresh their knowledge of what it means to be a Lutheran Protestant Christian and learn how to follow through with Lutheran action and witness.

LIVING OUT ISAIAH 1:17

Reflecting on Wellspring Karitas

By: Melissa Geary

When I was confirmed, over a decade ago now, I was ascribed a personal verse (as tradition goes). Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." I've recited, analyzed, and stewed on that verse what could likely be a thousand times. I lived it on the Wellspring Karitas mission.

Reflecting on my time in Mexico, the salient and resounding theme was, in short, community. This included community-oriented spaces, community among our brothers and sisters in Christ, and, arguably the crux of it all, community as a part of humanity. Each place we were fortunate enough to experience revolved around proactive engagement and collective responsibility, as opposed to that of passive hope and self-actualization. The sense of oneness was visceral – a literal punch to the gut. But it felt like a salve on my soul. My understanding of Isaiah 1:17 was molded into a new form, now with an earth-shattering current of collective action.

The start of each phrase of the verse, *Learn, Seek, Defend, Take up*, and *Plead* are intentionally positioned verbs. What follows

are actions of justice, rooted not in isolation, but in relationship. Justice, by its nature, is communal. True justice requires us to take shared responsibility for one another – to ensure that people from all walks of life are seen, heard, protected, and valued.

Isaiah's command isn't given to a single person, but to a nation, a people, a collective.

I ask you to reevaluate your notion of this verse. It is not a solitary call to action, but a communal rhythm that pleads us to move forward together. These verbs, and their subsequent objectives, are not individual imperatives, but invitations to participate in synergistic transformation. They urge us to lean into our own discomfort in order to attend to needs outside of ourselves, to embody total benevolence and selflessness. In embracing this verse as a community, we don't just honor scripture, we become living expressions of it.

I am extraordinarily blessed for the opportunity to experience the Word in action during our time in Mexico, and to continue my calling to wage peace through Christ within the walls of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and into the ever-widening circle of grace.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
7/6/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	4th Sunday after Pentecost	Abby Torres	Amy Moyer, Mel Roth	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Amy Moyer	Cathy Krause	Justin Jones	Sue Grofe	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Phil Haddad, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Abbe Grofe
7/13/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	5th Sunday after Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	Jen & Jason Friz	Jodi Dykie, Heather Murray	Jason Friz	Brian Moatz	Shannon Omlor	Friz Family	Melissa Eidle	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Scott Scheiry
7/20/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	6th Sunday after Pentecost (New Members & Baptism)	Philip Derr	Michele & Dave Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Amanda Ehst	Amy Moyer	Shannon Omlor	Karen Pollock	Myles Omlor	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Camryn Friz
7/27/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	7th Sunday after Pentecost (Handbells)	Tatum Friz	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Melissa Eidle	Jennifer Schlegel	Karen Pollock	Sarah Eidle	Jean Machamer	Ashley Gheer	Jerry Krause, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Scott Schiery	Justin Jones
8/3/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Grant Hersperger	Melissa Eidle, Tom Engle	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Madison Robb	Dave Babb	Jason Friz	Michele Eidle	Brianna Rohrbach	Bev & Joe Blake, Susan & Andy Varzally	Jason Eidle
8/10/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	Bonnie Moatz, Mel Roth	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Mel Roth	Cathy Krause	Shannon Omlor	Bonnie Moatz	Melissa Eidle	Carol Sematis, Sandy & Terry Wade, Terry Wadsworth	Abbe Grofe
8/17/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Camryn Friz	Bev & Joe Blake	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Bev Blake	Michele Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Tom Engle	Myles Omlor	Martha Bentley, Phil Haddad, Barbara Houpp, Josee Ruckenbrod	Scott Scheiry
8/24/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	11th Sunday after Pentecost (Back to School Blessing)	Abby Torres	Tom Engle, Melissa Geary	Mary Kay Heimbach, Heather Murray	Melissa Geary	Missy Endy	Jason Friz	Martha Bentley	Ashley Gheer	Jodi Dykie, Ros & Brian Moatz, Jennifer Schlegel	Camryn Friz
8/31/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	George Hill, Amy Moyer	Bonnie Moatz	Amy Moyer	Tom Engle	Shannon Omlor	Mel Roth	Brianna Rohrbach	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Sue & George Hill	Jason Eidle

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p The Chosen Small Group	2 Oley Cluster 6:30p Worship Team	3 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30 Scripture Doodle Small Group 8:00p Worship Broadcast	4 Independence Day Office Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	5 4:30p Come to the Table
6 9:30a Worship Celebration	7	8 6:30p The Chosen Small Group	9	10 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:00p Choir 6:30 Scripture Doodle Small Group 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	11 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 9:30a Preschool Summer Fun Days	12 4:30p Come to the Table
13 9:30a Worship Celebration	14 5:00 Newsletter Submission 6:30p Grateful Small Group	15 6:30p The Chosen Small Group 6:30p Finance Team	16 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen	17 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:00p Choir 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	18 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 9:30a Preschool Summer Fun Days	19 4:30p Come to the Table
20 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Coffee & Conversation	21 6:30p Grateful Small Group	22 6:30p Teach Us to Pray Small Group 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown	23	24 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:00p Choir 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	25 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	26 4:30p Come to the Table
27 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Youth Retreat Parent Meeting	28 6:30p Grateful Small Group 7:30p Optimist Club	29 10:00a Funeral 12:00p Luncheon 6:30p Teach Us to Pray Small Group	30 6:30p Congregation Council 7:00p State Theatre	31 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:00p Choir 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast		

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Gail Garceau	2 Marie Becsi Allyson Bosler	3	4	5 Dolores Grabert
6 Barry Erb	7 Ed Schaeffer	8 Bill Rohrbach	9 Sue Grofe	10 Landon Boyer Leroy Gehris	11	12 Gwendolyn Greenawalt
13 Kevin Moyer	14 Trevor Bosler Louise Herbert John Tim	15	16	17 Renee Brile	18 Tom Berkosky	19
20	21 Jay Herbert Thelma Unger	22 Grant Hersperger	23 Andrew Grofe Richard Marburger	24 Jodi Dykie Clifford Harze	25 Marian Eisenhard	26 Melanie Roth
27 Rachael Harze	28 Pastor Bob Machamer	29 Aiden Martin Lilly Torres	30 Amanda Ehst	31 Lonnie Carnes Ray Kriebel		



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

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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 June 24, 2025

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

Ashley Gheer, Intern

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

Madison Robb, Intern

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

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