



Have you been sustained by God's peace this year? Or has relationship conflict been a source of trouble and heart-ache? Discord with others can be extremely distressing. When we feel defensive or on the receiving end of negative emotions, we can easily forget how God wants us to act. I suspect we all are aware of the challenges that often arise between people, and the way they can tear relationships apart – people, marriages, parent-child, churches, communities, and even nations.

I hope the following excerpts from the late Dr. Charles Stanley will be helpful. My prayer is that you will hear his love for God and wisdom that was developed throughout his many decades of service to God's church. I know his life was one filled with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows.

Dr. Stanley writes, "I recall a conversation with a woman who told me she was having trouble finding a good church in her area. It wasn't because there weren't enough to choose from, but there was dissension and division in all the churches she knew about. This disunity is the sad reality for many churches today."

"I believe most conflicts in churches are relational, not theological. One member is offended by another. This group wants to direct the church one way, while another wants it to follow their agenda. The root cause is failure to behave in a way that honors Christ and maintains the unity of the body."

"Life in the kingdom of God should be the warmest of environments for Christ followers living in a hostile world. But whether in the church or in the world, we are called to be peacemakers. That's why Peter gave them a practical pattern of living: "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing" [1 Peter 3:8-9]. As Christ followers we may not agree on every issue, but with minds set on Christ, we can live in peace and harmony with one another. The Holy Spirit will do this challenging work within us as we seek God. Only then will we be able to do what Peter says next – "don't return evil for evil or insult for insult." Instead, give a blessing by speaking well of, and doing good to, your offender.

Romans 12:18 says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people." Sympathy, compassion, love, kindness, and humility are more effective in winning someone to Christ than our rudeness, insults, anger, and harshness."

Let Jesus shine through you so that others can see in your behavior, attitudes, and words a life transformed by Christ.

Be blessed!
Pastor Bob



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LIVING LUTHERAN LIVES

By: Jennifer Schlegel

Whether we are Lutheran since infant baptism decades ago or by recent choice maybe just this year, our knowledge of what it means to claim “Lutheran Christian” can vary greatly. Perhaps we recognize the emphasis on being saved by grace, and being justified by faith. Maybe we’ve heard about the theology of the cross. Some may have read Luther’s small catechism or a few may have read the Book of Concord from cover to cover – I’m looking at you, Bill Smith! Whatever your degree of understanding of what it means to be Lutheran, we have opportunities to grow that understanding in community with each other through a few upcoming events.

On Reformation Sunday, October 27, you are invited to join a Zoom Workshop with Dave and Marlene Daubert (register online). Dave is the author of *Lutheran Trump Cards*, the text we’ll be using in the small group starting Monday, November 18. Dave and Marlene would like to hear from us – our questions about Lutheran faith, beliefs, and practice. Our questions to them will help them prepare for a retreat they will be leading with us at St. John’s on Saturday, November 16 (register online). On Sunday, November 17, Dave and Marlene will be welcomed to the pulpit to provide the sermon. The small group offered in November will build on the momentum of the Zoom Workshop and in-person Retreat, focusing on *Lutheran Trump Cards*.

These events are purposeful and intentionally scaffolded to help build our faith, understand our Lutheran foundations, and grow our witness as Lutheran Christians in Boyertown, PA.

Learn more about our guests joining us in November!

Marlene Daubert - Marlene is a rostered deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a trained and commissioned spiritual director. Her path has taken her through accounting, social work (MSW at Ohio State), and eventually to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago where she earned her Master of Arts in Theology. In addition, Marlene has a Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Presbyterian Seminary in Decatur, GA; and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Sacred Journeys. She currently serves as a Deacon at Zion Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL with her husband Dave. They have been life partners for over 41 years and work partners for over 21 years. Marlene finds joy in regularly leading a spiritual practices group and connecting with people where they are. In her spare time, Marlene enjoys playing pickleball, traveling, the outdoors, cooking, watching movies, and listening to music.

Dave Daubert - Dave serves as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL – a role he shares with his wife Marlene. He has a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching and a Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies. He is also the owner and lead consultant for Day 8 Strategies. Dave works with faith-based organizations and with leaders to connect people to God’s work in the world and support revitalization for the sake of God’s mission. The connections between the teaching, coaching, and consulting that Dave does and the parish experiences that he lives out bring grounded insights that make his work a unique blend of theory and practice.

He has been interviewed on NPR and is the popular author of several books and articles about mission, leadership, and the practice of ministry (including *Lutheran Trump Cards*, *Living Lutheran*, *Reclaiming the ‘V’ Word (Vocation)*, *The Invitational Christian*, and *Becoming a Hybrid Church*). His newest book is *Beyond Chit-Chat: Sharing Stories that Matter* and was co-written with his friend and colleague Elaina Salmon.

Dave enjoys being active and likes to play golf and pickleball, enjoys reading and playing music, and has lovingly tortured his wife Marlene with 41 years of never-ending renovation projects in every home they have owned. Dave and Marlene live in Elgin, IL with their dog Elsa.

Lutheran Trump Cards by Dave Daubert

(5 sessions) Monday, November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 16 at 6:30pm - REGISTER ONLINE

Leader: Jennifer Schlegel | Location: St. John’s Lower Level

While *A New Reformation* provides the context and core content of the Protestant Reformation, this fall’s third small group offering dives into Lutheran Protestantism in particular. Beginning Monday, November 18 join Jennifer Schlegel in a five-week session to 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 LUTHERAN LIVES

Who are we as Lutheran Christians?



**SUN
OCT
27**

ZOOM WORKSHOP | 3:00PM

(2 options for the call: from home or meet in the Lower Level)

Dave & Marlene Daubert lead this call providing an opportunity for congregants to ask questions about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

Register by October 23

**SAT
NOV
16**

RETREAT | 9:00AM-3:00PM | LOWER LEVEL (lunch provided)

Learn more about the core elements of our Lutheran faith and how to put our faith into words and deeds at this retreat led by the Dauberts.

Register by November 3

register for both online



PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

reception in Lower Level following worship

Express your gratitude for the incredible leadership of Pastor Bob. He leads with wisdom, serves with compassion, and teaches us every day.

Bring a heartfelt card or letter of appreciation to church that day or send it in the mail if you aren't able to attend.

WORSHIP THIS FALL



Sunday, October 27 @ 9:30 am **Reformation Sunday**

We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. New members will be welcomed with a reception following worship.

Sunday, November 3 @ 9:30 am **All Saints Sunday**

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

Sunday, November 17 @ 9:30 am We welcome guest preachers, Dave and Marlene Daubert. Reception to follow in Lower Level.



Sunday, November 24 @ 9:30 am We welcome Oley Valley High School Choir



LIFT

Living in Faith Together

On three Wednesdays in September, participants gathered for LIFT. LIFT is designed to foster intergenerational community by bringing generations together around tables for four activities each week:

- Sharing Food
(breaking bread together)
- Enjoying Fellowship
(playing together)
- Worshipping
(praying together)
- Studying the Bible
(studying God's word together)



VOX Philia

FREE CONCERT

featuring premieres by local composer David Himes and French composer Lisa Borel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 7:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

45 N. READING AVE. | BOYERTOWN | STJOHNSBOYERTOWN.ORG

Vox Philia is a premiere chamber choir located in Reading, Pennsylvania. Since 2012, the choir has been achieving regional recognition, performing works from a wide range of musical periods and styles.



READINESS RITUALS

By: Bethany Calderwood

We're back! What a joy to open the Preschool doors every morning and see the smiling faces lined up, backpacks loaded, ready to adventure into a new day's learning.

In early September, we welcomed families with an Open House, where students met their teachers and scouted out their new classrooms. During the second week of school we held Back to School Night, where families were introduced to the program and then spent time with their child's teachers, learning about curriculum and expectations.

In the classroom, we focused our learning experiences on friendship and emotions, two topics that help us as we establish routines and develop healthy ways to relate to one another as the school year progresses. We learned about each other and our classroom

expectations and launched into a season of learning about literacy, numbers, responsibility, and fun.

In our Bible lessons, the 2's and 3's spent September focused on creation. The God who made our amazing world made and loves us, too! The 4's and Transitional Kindergarten students began a chronological Bible survey journey with the stories of creation, Noah, and Abraham and Sarah.

Upstairs we have a bulletin board with the students' photos. It reads, "We are Peacemakers and Problem Solvers." That is our underlying goal for this year. Along with the key elements of literacy, numeracy, socialization, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills, we hope to start our students on a journey to being effective peacemakers in their communities - home, school, and beyond - and being efficient problem-solvers as they tackle life's many situations. Join us in praying for our students this year!



HOW ARE ISRAEL, JUDAH, CANAAN, AND PALESTINE DIFFERENT?

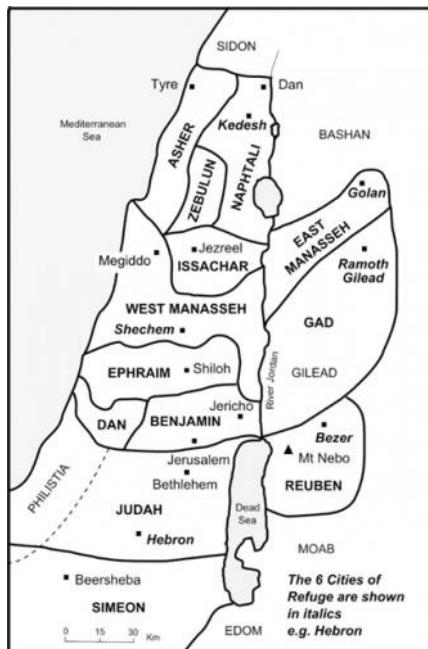
By: Cathy Krause

These Old Testament names can be confusing. Let's look at each name in light of the area's history. (This history will be brief and only highlight what we need to discuss the above names.)

Terah is the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. They were born in Ur, which is in Chaldea, near the southern portion of the Euphrates River (current day Iraq). After Haran, the youngest son, dies prematurely, the family leaves to travel to Haran (the city, not a person), located in upper Mesopotamia. It is there that God spoke to Abram about going to "the land which I shall show you." (Gen.12:1). They then set out for and came to the land of Canaan. (Gen. 12:5)

As we know, Abram's name was changed to Abraham. He was the father of Isaac with Sarah (and Ishmael with Hagar). Isaac continued to live in Canaan; he married Rebekah with whom he had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Jacob and Esau had a contentious relationship – Jacob always seemed to best his older twin. As Jacob was journeying, after his confrontation with Laban, his father-in-law, he sent messengers to his brother to curry his favor. The night before the brothers met, Jacob wrestled with an angel. The angel told Jacob that his name was changed to Israel because he struggled with the angel and with God and had prevailed. (Gen. 32:27-29; 33:9-15) At this time, the land was still Canaan and Israel referred to the man Jacob.

Jacob and his wives had 12 sons (daughters didn't count, so we don't know how many total children they had). His sons' names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. They all eventually ended up in Egypt because of famine. They and their families lived there for many generations - until a new Pharaoh feared they would overrun the Egyptians.



Enter Moses, Aaron and the plagues. Pharaoh did decide to let the Hebrews leave, but not without some drama. Once this merry band of Hebrews passed through the Red Sea, their GPS did not function. They spent 40 years wandering around the Sinai Peninsula. When Moses died, Joshua took over as group leader and entered Canaan. It took a number of battles, but Canaan was eventually divided among the 12 tribes of Israel. Please note that Joseph's name and Levi's name are not on the map. Joseph is represented by his sons: Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites became the priests and would not own land. (Joshua 13; 14:1-5)

The 12 tribes united under Saul and were strengthened under David. After the reign of Solomon, the united Israelite kingdom split into two: Israel, the northern kingdom consisting of 10 tribes and Judah, (now Israel refers to the land and the people inhabiting it) the southern kingdom, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. As separate political entities, they each had different kings. (1 Kings 12:22-24)

Israel was invaded by the Assyrians (2 Chronicles 32), followed by the Babylonians many years later (2 Kings 25: 1-21; 2 Chronicles 36: 17-21). The division of Israel and Judah lasted until Jerusalem fell

and the Judeans were taken into exile in Babylonia.

Alexander the Great then ruled this area until his death in 325 B.C. His generals divided the area, calling the area between Egypt and Southwest Asia Palestine. In 1948, this area was divided between Israel and Jordan, with a small strip of land claimed by Egypt, called the Gaza Strip. As the result of this division, there is no longer a country call Palestine. Arabs, who do not recognize the land belonging to Israel, continue to call the land Palestine.





Resources consulted:

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The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 419-420.

Taylor, Chris and Jennifer. “Canaan is Divided Among the Twelve Tribes.” Map 4: The Boundaries of the Twelve Tribes. 2024. 6 Sep 2024. <thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/27-the-israelites-move-into-canaan/canaan-is-divided-among-the-twelve-tribes>





POTATO PROJECT HARVEST

St. John's volunteers joined with iHart Harvest once again to help harvest potatoes at the plot at Becker's St. Peters Church in Fleetwood on September 8. After a few hours of work, six thousand pounds of potatoes were harvested and bagged! This harvest was picked up the following day by Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank. Thank you to all who participated to help our neighbors in need during Hunger Action Month - September.



VETERANS SALUTE

Thursday, November 14
6:30 PM

LIVING LUTHERAN LIVES RETREAT

Saturday, November 16
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 21
6:00 PM

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Sunday, November 24
11:00 AM

Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, October 14 for November issue
Monday, November 11 for December issue
Monday, December 9 for January issue

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
10/6/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	20th Sunday after Pentecost	Grant Hersperger	Melissa Eidle, Bonnie Moatz	Jodie Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Amy Moyer	Terry Wade	Justin Jones	Susan & Andy Varzally	Ashley Gheer	Bunny & Ron Riffle, Becky & Barry Erb	Scott Scheiry
10/13/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	21st Sunday after Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	George Hill, Lauren Jones	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Amanda Ehst	Dave Babb	Shannon Omlor	Sarah Eidle	Brianna Rohrbach	Bev & Joe Blake, Lauren Jones, Bill Rohrbach	Nathan Wanish
10/20/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Mary Kay Heimbach, Jean Machamer	Lauren Jones	Bev Blake	Sarah Eidle	Sue Grofe	Shannon Omlor	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer	Justin Jones
10/27/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Reformation Day	Tatum Friz	Michele & Dave Eidle	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jennifer Schlegel	Cathy Krause	Jason Friz	Michele Eidle	Myles Omlor	Martha Bentley, Jodie Dykie, Barbara Houp, Nathan Wanish	Jason Eidle
11/3/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	All Saints Day	Delaney Hersperger	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Melissa Eidle	Mel Roth	Mary Kay Heimbach	Justin Jones	Jean Machamer	Ashley Gheer	Mike Gilbert, Phil Haddad, Gerry Krause, Ed Schaeffer	Camryn Friz
11/10/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	25th Sunday after Pentecost	Grant Hersperger	Jen Friz, Jennifer Schlegel	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Jason Friz	Lori Carnes	Sarah Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Susan & Andy Varzally	Abbe Grofe
11/17/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	26th Sunday after Pentecost	Tatum Friz	Mel Roth, Becky Scheiry	Bonnie Moatz	Melissa Geary	Michele Eidle	Shannon Omlor	Karen Pollock	Melissa Eidle	Ros & Brian Moatz, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Scott Scheiry
11/24/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Christ the King	Philip Derr	Bev & Joe Blake	Jodie Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Amanda Ehst	Missy Endy	Justin Jones	Friz Family	Myles Omlor	Martha Bentley, Jodie Dykie, Jennifer Schlegel, Nathan Wanish	Nathan Wanish

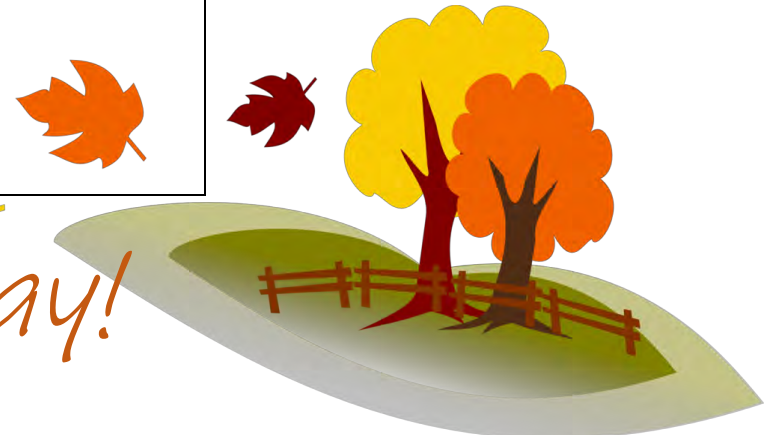
OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p A New Reformation	2 Oley Cluster 6:30p Worship Team	3 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	4 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	5 8:30a Worship Work Day 4:30p Come to the Table
6 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	7 6:30p The Case for Christ 6:30p Girl Scouts	8 6:30p A New Reformation	9 9:30a Preschool Fire Truck Visit 11:45a Preschool Staff	10 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	11 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	12 4:30p Come to the Table
13 Pastor Appreciation Day 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Coffee & Conversation	14 Preschool Professional Learning 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p The Case for Christ 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	15 6:30p Finance Team 6:30p A New Reformation	16 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 10:00a Preschool Chapel Time 1:00p Boyertown Community Foundation 6:30p Congregation Council	17 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:30a Staff Coaching 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	18 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	19 4:30p Come to the Table
20 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 11:00a New Members Class	21 6:30p The Case for Christ 6:30p Girl Scouts	22 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p A New Reformation 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown	23 9:30a Preschool Trick or Treat at Walnut Woods	24 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service w/Holy Communion 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	25 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	26 4:30p Come to the Table 7:00p Vox Philia Concert
27 Reformation Day 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 3:00p Living Lutheran Lives Zoom Workshop	28 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	29	30 7:00p State Theatre Board	31 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast		

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hannah Scheiry	2	3	4 Chas Gonzalez Lauren Jones	5
6	7 Bunny Riffle	8 Michael Gilbert	9 Donald Losch	10	11 Wendy Gheer	12 Bruce Guinther
13 Cathy Krause	14	15	16	17 Dave Eidle Abbe Grofe	18	19
20 Jill Koch	21 Aloma Nagel	22 Marlys Haws	23	24 Philip Derr	25 Christine Miller	26
27 Bill Smith	28	29	30	31		

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 September 25, 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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.