GLE MESSENGF



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DECEMBER 2024

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP T

INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS T SACRIFICIAL SERVICE T RADICAL GENEROSITY

THE ACE THERE IS NO WAY TO GOD (PERIOD)

Excerpts from Lutheran Trump Cards – Playing our best hand in the 21st century by Dave Daubert

"One of Luther's personal struggles was an obsession with getting life right so he could end up with God rather than be condemned. He tried to find peace in repenting and confessing but, as soon as he was done, he started to notice or remember things he had done but forgotten to confess. This literally drove him crazy and he could not find peace, no matter how he tried. Luther's great insight discovered this key truth - nothing we can do can get us right with God and no amount of effort on our part can get us to eternity. In this matter, we are powerless."

"On the surface this may not seem like a very good first card. You may be thinking, 'Our best point is that there is no way to God? That sounds pretty negative and discouraging. We know so many people who are searching for God and trying to find their way. Can we really tell them to give it up, that there is simply no way to God at all - no exceptions?"

"The Lutheran answer is to say, "Yes!" Tell them to give it up. The burden of trying to find a way to get to God and finding a system or activity or status that makes it possible, is life draining. It causes many people to lament their inability to get there or make any progress in their spiritual journey. Nothing sucks the life out of someone more than the endless attempt to arrive at the impossible."

"The kindest thing we can do is help people see that they don't need to get to God. The Christian message is grounded in a gospel where God always goes first, always initiates, and comes to us. Right from the beginning, when God made the world and everything in it, and then came to walk with Adam and Eve in the garden that God had planted for them to till and cultivate. It happened when God came to Abraham and Sarah, in the persons of three visitors and announced that they would have a son. It happened when Moses met God, who came to him and the burning bush and called him to lead God's people to freedom. It happened over and over again in God's



story. It has always been this way. It continues to be this way. We don't have any way to get to God. And, once we discover that, rather than working to figure out what will get us "there," we are freed to simply be "here" and watch for God's coming."

Advent is the time of the year when we are invited to remember our foundational belief that God comes to us in Jesus. Remembering that God is active and alive and always on the move, we have to keep alert to the new thing God is doing. We can be the encouragement others need by helping them see the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Jesus. We can proclaim the truth that they are set free from the bondage and tyranny of working their way to heaven. We now live in an age radically different because of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Freedom comes when we believe this truth and embrace the assurance of our salvation accepting the cards God has dealt us, "cards" that remind us of the victorious life we have been called to experience and share with others.

Be blessed! Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! **Pastor Bob**

WHAT'S INSIDE?							
The Waiting Room Midweek Advent Services	Upcoming Worship	Christmas at St. John's	New Members Welcomed				
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Live in Faith Together -Experience the anticipation of Advent in

THE WAITING ROOM

Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18

6:00 PM enjoy a simple meal (Lower Level)

6:45 PM participate in an activity

7:00 PM engage in Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)

sign up online to provide soup to share

Our Midweek Advent Services are right around the corner and the Worship Team is excited to present something new and fun as we prepare to worship together.

Please join us in "The Waiting Room."

WHO should attend?

EVERYONE! ALL ARE WELCOME! Don't miss the opportunity to meet with Jesus this Advent.

WHAT can I expect each week?

<u>For dinner each week:</u> 3 kinds of soup will be provided (including a gluten-free option). We will also provide water. Bring your own sandwich, salad, or another side to complete your meal. Yes, just one serving for yourself.

<u>Themes</u>

<u>Week 1</u> - There are preparations to be made and roadwork to be done in our minds, hearts, and lives. "God comes to us!" and we need to be *Prepared*.

Week 2 - How do we know God is coming? Because His Word tells us so. He wants us to adjust our hopes and Expectations.

<u>Week 3</u> - When God comes close, things get upset, sometimes causing *Scandal*. He shakes things up in a good way. When God comes close, life gets disrupted and that's okay, because we know that "God is always with us."

WHERE will we meet?

We'll begin in the Lower Level with a simple meal and activity. Then we'll move to the Sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer where each week we'll hear a different speaker give a message and hear beautiful music by various vocalists accompanied by Atsuko Hanson on piano.

WHEN does this happen?

Wednesday, December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:00 pm. Need help getting here? We're happy to pick you up and take you home, don't let "no driving at night" be the reason for missing this special time with God and His children. Please contact the office if you need a ride (610.369.1024).

WHY should I participate?

Because the world is a messy place and we all need a midweek renewal.

If you have never attended our Midweek Advent Services, let 2024 be the year you try something new!

CHURCH OFFICE **CLOSED**

Tuesday, December 24 - Wednesday, January 1

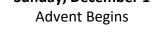
REGARDING **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The IRS provides clear guidelines with regard to the date of posting contributions, which we follow carefully. All contributions received or postmarked by December 31 will be included in that year's contribution statement. If the contribution is received or postmarked after December 31, it will be included in the contribution statement of the year in which it is received/postmarked, regardless of the date on the check.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1 **Advent Begins**



Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18 The Waiting Room 6:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19 @ 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship

Tuesday, December 24 @ 3:00 & 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25 @ 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 29 @ 9:30 am **Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, January 5 @ 9:30 am **Epiphany of Our Lord**

Epiphany names the day that the church tells Matthew's story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star

Sunday, January 12 @ 9:30 am

and thus "see" Jesus as Christ.

Baptism of Our Lord

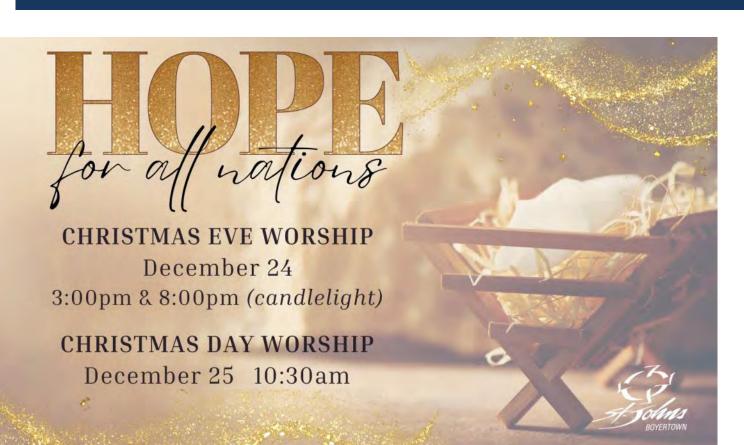
The gospel this Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. A voice speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove.

ANNUAL MEETING

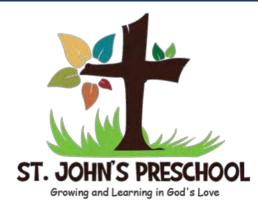
Sunday, December 8 immediately following 9:30 am worship

In accordance with Article C.10.01.01 of our constitution, the Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, immediately following 9:30 am worship. The agenda consists of the following items:

- accept the reports of the church
- present and approve the budget (Ministry Action Plan) for the next calendar year
- elect members to the Congregation Council







PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Amy Daub

It's been a busy and fun fall season here at preschool! Throughout November we learned about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. In the 3-year-old class we read books about being thankful and we made 'Thankful Trees'. Students made the trees by tracing their arms and hands. Leaves were added with words of things we are thankful for.

The state of the s

The preschool children shared several songs and fingerplays with those in attendance on the evening of November 21 at the Advent Wreath Workshop. It was a fun night making Advent wreaths with family and preparing for the upcoming season of Christmas! Special festivities happened the week of Thanksgiving, as all of the classes came together to share a special snack and activities.

In December, the preschool will be learning all about Advent and Christmas - the birth of baby Jesus! We will also be returning to Walnut Woods to sing some Christmas carols to the residents.

This year, the 2-year-old and 3-year-old classes have started a new program where we focus on and learn all about a bible story for an entire month. In October, the bible story was Jonah. We learned that even if we do something wrong, such as run away from God or not listen to our parents, if we pray and say we're sorry, God will forgive us. In November, we read about the good Samaritan, and learned that we should be kind and help others. In December, we are looking forward to reading the Christmas story.









LIVING LUTHERAN LIVES RETREAT

By: Cathy Krause

Saturday, November 16, was filled with fellowship and learning. Pastor Dave Daubert and Deacon Marlene Daubert led us in exercises to explore our identity as Lutherans. They gave us insight into how Lutheran history guides us today.

The Dauberts taught us that the Bible is storytelling and not a history book. It points to Jesus. There is no way to God; he comes to us in Jesus. Love comes down.

We explored scripture using lectio divina and visio divina. We learned that discipleship is giving, loving sacrificially. We discussed the three sacraments: baptism, communion, and confession and forgiveness. We are most familiar with baptism and communion; confession is speaking the truth about sin. God wants us to be aware of who we are – sinners and saints.

We learned about sharing the Word: that we witness out of love and not coercion. Listening is a most important part of witnessing. Witnessing always points us to God in Christ.

It was a soul-filling day. Please ask anyone who attended for their impressions of November 16. It will be well-worth your time to do so.











MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, January 29 | 2:00 PM

MEN'S RETREAT

Friday, January 31 - Sunday, February 2

RINGGOLD BAND CONCERT

A concert highlighting Black History Month
Saturday, February 22 | 7:00 PM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Everingham and her husband both grew up in rural Pennsylvania. They attended rival high schools, but mutual friends brought them together and they began dating in college. At the present time, Sarah works for Cardinal Health in controlled substance compliance within the pharmaceutical supply chain, but she also has experience with Teva, Pharma Solutions, Rite Aid Corporation, and CVS Pharmacy.

The Everingham's moved to Barto at the very end of 2019. They felt Boyertown offered a small town feel but still had access to jobs, healthcare and things to do, which is important to Sarah because she has several hobbies and interests. Sarah is currently singing and competing with two women's barbershop choruses. She has played the piano for over 30 years. She also competes in several Spartan races annually. In addition, Sarah loves reading and has become a member of the Boyertown Community Library fundraising events committee.

Sarah grew up in the Catholic Church, but in college she played piano for Trinity Lutheran in Wellsboro, PA. During the covid years she watched numerous church services online, but found herself most interested in St. John's. Since coming in person to our

community, she has felt welcomed and excited to belong. She is already involved in our handbell choir.





Angie and Tom Berkosky came from different areas of Pennsylvania. Tom grew up in Scranton, but moved to Gilbertsville in 2012, looking for a nice neighborhood and school for his daughters, Ava (age 16) and Lucy (age14). Both attend Boyertown High School. Angie grew up in Leola in Lancaster County. She lived in Harrisburg and Ephrata before moving to Gilbertsville in 2017 when she and Tom were married.

Tom works for GE Healthcare as a systems design engineer, designing network and patient monitoring systems for hospitals. Angie is a partner at Savant Wealth Management. She is Director of Investment Strategy, working with investment portfolios and research.

The Berkosky's interests vary. Tom plays guitar and collects vinyl records. Angie plays piano and loves true crime documentaries. They are season ticket holders for the Eagles. They both love to travel, St. Lucia being their favorite destination since their honeymoon, but Angie also loves New England.

Tom and Angie were connected to St. John's by their daughter Lucy who attended Girl Scouts at St. John's. Angie was a co-leader of the troop. After attending services on several occasions, they felt connected with the congregation and Pastor Bob. Angie

has already joined the handbell choir and has attended small group and retreat opportunities. They look forward to being involved with some of our service events.

Anthony and Lilived Torres came to us from New Jersey. They chose this area because more land was available and taxes were lower. Anthony and Lilived met while on a vacation to Florida. Lilived works in human resources, while Anthony works in pharmaceutical data management.

Their family includes Kiersten (age 29), who lives in Atlanta, Joshua (age 14), who attends Boyertown High School, and Abigail (age 8), a student at Colebrookdale Elementary. All of them enjoy reading, sports, and music. Recently, their travels have included Myrtle Beach and Puerto Rico.

The Torres family felt the need to become closer to God. St. John's has fulfilled that need. They are very interested in participating in some of the service events that we offer.







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.



SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

St. John's was honored to host the 24th Annual Salute to Our Veterans on the evening of Thursday, November 14.

Event sponsor, the Rotary Club of Boyertown, was joined by Boyertown Middle School Show Choir, Boyertown High School NJROTC, Spaatz Museum representatives, and keynote speaker, Major Daniel Fair, U.S. Air Force Retired.

"This event honors and recognizes our local veterans and also serves to educate our community about military service and the history of Veterans Day," Stephanie L. Landis, event chairperson and Boyertown Rotary Club past president, said in a statement.

Approximately 200 guests attended. Each veteran in attendance received thank you cards handmade by Boyertown students as well as a veteran lapel pin.



Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, December 9 for January issue Monday, January 13 for February issue Monday, February 10 for March issue

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
12/1/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 1	Grant Hersperger (wreath: Hersperger Family)	George Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Amanda Ehst	Krista Fretz	Jason Friz	Mel Roth	Ashley Gheer	Bev & Joe Blake, Becky & Barry Erb	Shannon Omlor
12/4/2024	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer	Tatum Friz	NA	NA	NA	Missy Endy	Shannon Omlor	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Sandy & Terry Wade	Jason Eidle
12/8/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 2	Delaney Hersperger (wreath: Torres Family)	Bev & Joe Blake	Jodie Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Lauren Jones	Tom Engle	Sarah Eidle	Lauren Jones	Melissa Eidle	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Phil Haddad, Jerry Krause	Camryn Friz
12/11/2024	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer	Philip Derr	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Jason Friz	NA	Myles Omlor	Bunny & Ron Riffle	Abbe Grofe
12/15/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 3	Camryn Friz (wreath: Berkosky Family)	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Bonnie Moatz	Jen Schlegel	Sue Hill	Justin Jones	Nathan Wanish	Ashley Gheer	Lauren & Justin Jones, Ben Rohrbach, Bill Rohrbach	Scott Scheiry
12/18/2024	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer	Tatum Friz	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Shannon Omlor	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Nathan Wanish
12/19/2024	Thursday	7:00 PM	Blue Christmas	Philip Derr	NA	NA	NA	Phyllis Kershner	Sarah Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Melissa Eidle	Ros & Brian Moatz	Justin Jones
12/22/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	Advent 4	Camryn Friz	Bev & Joe Blake	Sue & George Hill	Mel Roth	Jean Machamer	Jason Friz	Sarah Eidle	Myles Omlor	Kevin Moyer, Darin Moyer, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Jason Eidle
12/24/2024	Tuesday	3:00 PM	Christmas Eve	Delaney Hersperger	Shannon Omlor, Becky Scheiry	Mary Kay Heimbach, Sue Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Lauren Jones	Ben Rohrbach	Justin Jones	Martha Bentley	Ashley Gheer	Martha Bentley, Jodie Dykie, Barbara Houp, Nathan Wanish	Camryn Friz
12/24/2024	Tuesday	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve	Alina Friz	Shannon Omlor, Becky Scheiry	Mary Kay Heimbach, Sue Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Jen Schlegel	Jason Friz	Sarah Eidle	Ros Moatz	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Ros & Brian Moatz, Bonnie & Rick Moatz	Scott Scheiry
12/25/2024	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Christmas Day	Camryn Friz	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Mary Kay Heimbach, Sue Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Amanda Ehst	NA	Shannon Omlor	Terry Wade	Melissa Eidle	Sandy & Terry Wade	Abbe Grofe
12/29/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	First Sunday after Christmas	Grant Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	NA	Various	Shannon Omlor	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Phil Haddad, Ed Schaeffer, Scott Scheiry	Jason Eidle
1/5/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord	Alina Friz	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle		Jason Friz	Mel Roth	Sarah Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Melissa Eidle	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Camryn Friz
1/12/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Baptism of Our Lord	Abby Torres	Jen Friz, Jen Schlegel		Lauren Jones	Brian Moatz	Shannon Omlor	Mel Roth	Myles Omlor	Carol & Larry Angstadt, MaryKay & Donnie Heimbach	Scott Scheiry
1/19/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Philip Derr	Mel Roth, TBD		Amy Moyer	Dave Long	Jason Friz	Sue Grofe	Ashley Gheer	Jerry Krause, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Scott Scheiry	Abbe Grofe
1/26/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Tatum Friz	Bev & Joe Blake		Bev Blake	Amy Moyer	Justin Jones	Jean Machamer	Brianna Rohrbach	Phil Haddad, Susan & Andy Varzally, Nathan Wanish	Nathan Wanish

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	Preschool Closed 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Joint Parking Lot	3 6:30p Worship Team	4 Oley Cluster 6:00p The Waiting Room 7:00p Midweek Advent Worship	5 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	6 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	7 4:30p Come to the Table
Advent 2 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Annual Meeting 5:00p Shop with a Cop	9 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	10	9:30a Preschool Caroling 8:15a Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00p The Waiting Room 7:00p Midweek Advent Worship	12 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	13 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	14 4:30p Come to the Table 7:00p The Director's Big Band Christmas Concert
15 Advent 3 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Christmas Meal Volunteer Walk-through	16 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards	17 6:30p Finance Team 7:00p Handbells	18 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 10:00a Preschool Chapel Time 6:00p The Waiting Room 7:00p Midweek Advent Worship	19 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 7:00p Blue Christmas 8:00p Worship Broadcast	7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 9:00a Preschool Christmas Social	21 4:30p Come to the Table
22 Advent 4 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	Preschool Closed 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	24 Christmas Eve Preschool Closed Office Closed 3:00p Worship Celebration 8:00p Worship Celebration	25 Christmas Day Preschool Closed Office Closed 10:30a Worship Celebration 11:30a Community Christmas Meal	26 Preschool Closed Office Closed 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	Preschool Closed Office Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	28 9:00a Handbells 4:30p Come to the Table
9:30a Worship Celebration 'Lessons & Carols' 9:30a Sunday School	30 Preschool Closed Office Closed	31 Preschool Closed Office Closed				1

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Terry Wade	Joan Kessler			Nathan Vogt		Josee Ruckenbrod
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Evelyn Heimbach Sherry Mendez
15 Connie Babb Noelle Erb Nathan Wanish Gloria Weller	16 Shane Johnson	17 Konah Freeman Sharon Leister	18 Ros Moatz	19 Becky Scheiry	20	21 Chris Hoagey
22 Timothy Krause Susan Varzally	23 Darin Moyer	24 Corrie Shaner	25 Nick Frey	26 Jen Friz	27 Vicki Davidheiser	28 Martha Bentley
29 Cody Rhoads	30 Elaine Smith	31 Virgina Harze				

Heather Murray Jane Spade



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 November 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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