



At St. John's our Learning Ministries are grounded in renewing spiritual life first, and engaging our neighbors near and far second. This work is sourced by the belief that vibrancy – and numerical growth – will follow. Do you see how accomplishing this work requires the integration of all of our ministry areas? That's why the lines between our ministry areas of Worship, Witness, Support, Service, and Learning might seem to blur. They function best when they DO blur. Christian life is not to be compartmentalized, it is to be authentically interwoven and integrated, and our life of learning is no exception.

After hearing members say we know what to do, we just don't do it, we committed to closing the gap between knowing and doing by introducing Small Groups for Learning in 2021 in the middle of a global pandemic. While others sought shelter in limiting their ministry opportunities, we did what has become common for St. John's – we expanded, so much so that in four years we have offered 27 Small Groups! These are not intended to be emotional support groups with a smattering of faith conversation sprinkled in for justification. Our Small Groups use top quality books and other resources in a safe context where sharing faith stories is built into the class design. Your congregation's leadership believed then and now that deepening the level of biblical literacy, understanding the core theological convictions of our Lutheran identity, and supporting our membership in their prayer life and faith journeys was and remains necessary for transformation to take root at St. John's.

Learning Leads to Transformation

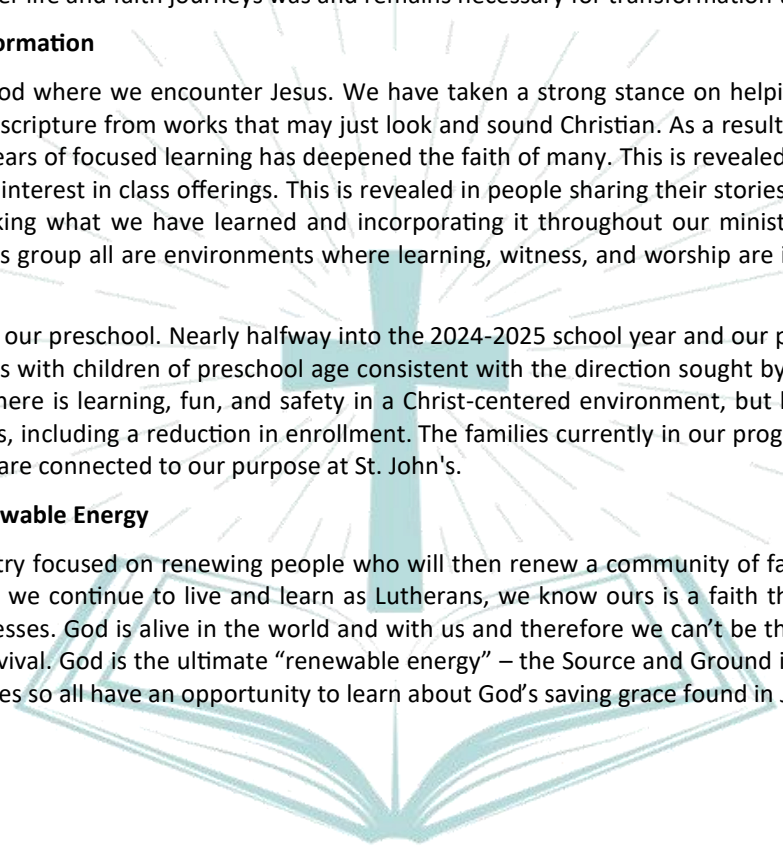
Scripture points to our God where we encounter Jesus. We have taken a strong stance on helping participants distinguish the teachings of Christ in scripture from works that may just look and sound Christian. As a result, it should come as no surprise that the past four years of focused learning has deepened the faith of many. This is revealed in the abundance of positive reviews and ongoing interest in class offerings. This is revealed in people sharing their stories of awakening and renewal. This is revealed in taking what we have learned and incorporating it throughout our ministries. Retreats, overnights, workshops, and the men's group all are environments where learning, witness, and worship are integrated purposefully to deepen our faith.

One area of awakening is our preschool. Nearly halfway into the 2024-2025 school year and our preschool has transformed into a ministry for families with children of preschool age consistent with the direction sought by our Congregation Council for the past few years. There is learning, fun, and safety in a Christ-centered environment, but like many transformations the program has struggles, including a reduction in enrollment. The families currently in our program are fully engaged and we are hopeful that they are connected to our purpose at St. John's.

God is the Ultimate Renewable Energy

Growing a learning ministry focused on renewing people who will then renew a community of faith is a serious step in the life of a congregation. As we continue to live and learn as Lutherans, we know ours is a faith that recognizes change and reform as continual processes. God is alive in the world and with us and therefore we can't be the same as we were. Newness in Christ is a daily revival. God is the ultimate "renewable energy" – the Source and Ground in our lives that propels us to work in our communities so all have an opportunity to learn about God's saving grace found in Jesus Christ.

Be blessed!
Pastor Bob



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Congregation Council

PAGE 2

Valentine's for Homebound

PAGE 2

Men's Retreat

PAGE 3

Upcoming Worship

PAGE 3

HOPE

for all nations

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24

3:00pm & 8:00pm (candlelight)

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

December 25 10:30am

CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

December 25 11:30am-1:00pm

free & open to all



Beginning January 26 and continuing through February 9, you'll find a heart-filled tree at the back of the sanctuary. These hearts contain the names and addresses of our homebound members. Please help us share our love for them by choosing one or two hearts and sending them a valentine. This small act reminds our homebound that they are remembered and cherished by their St. John's family!



RINGGOLD BAND CONCERT

A concert highlighting Black History Month

Saturday, February 22 | 7:00 PM

send some love

Mail a note of cheer
to a homebound member!

Addresses available
Jan 26, Feb 2 & 9
from the Valentine tree
in the sanctuary.

Congregation Council

John Gheer, President
Jen Schlegel, Vice-President
Melanie Roth, Secretary
Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer
Tom Engle

Congregation Council members were announced at our Annual Meeting on December 8. 2024 Annual Reports are available to pick up in the church office. Please call ahead.

THE DIRECTOR'S BIG BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On the evening of Saturday, December 14, St. John's welcomed The Director's Big Band back into our sanctuary for a festive night of classic Christmas tunes. Under the direction of Jim Dugan, the band played selections including Silver Bells, White Christmas, Angels We Have Heard on High, and many more. This year vocalists Orin Strunk and Eileen Brady added seamless harmonies with the band's instrumentation. Thank you to all those who helped support this evening by volunteering and also attending!



MEN'S RETREAT
Forksville, PA

**JANUARY 31-
FEBRUARY 2**
(Friday evening - Sunday afternoon)

Register on our website
by January 20

Questions?
Contact Brian at bmoatzsj@gmail.com

SCAN TO REGISTER 

UPCOMING 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 and thus "see" Jesus as Christ.

Sunday, January 12 @ 9:30 am
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.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Bethany Calderwood

Good News: Jesus is Born!

December was a month of celebration. In addition to working on letters, numbers, patterns, and sharing, we had the privilege of focusing on Christmas songs and decorations. Our celebration culminated in a birthday party for Jesus.



Together, we learned that Christmas is about good news – the good news of Jesus’s birth. Preschoolers were challenged first to learn the good news of Christmas, then to tell the good news to others. In the Christmas story, there are many messengers, or news-bringers.

Prophets were messengers who told people to wait for Jesus. They also shared some of what Jesus would do, including where he would be born. The older students learned a Bible verse from the prophet Isaiah, who announced that Jesus would be a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

An angel was a messenger who announced that Jesus was coming. The angel told Mary that she would have a baby, and that her baby would be God’s son. An angel gave a similar message to Joseph.



A group of angels gave the news that Jesus is born. They visited some shepherds near Bethlehem and told the shepherds to look for their Savior in a manger in town.

The shepherds turned into messengers, too. After they saw Jesus, they went and told people the good news: Jesus is born!

We can be messengers, too. We can share the news that Jesus is with us—one of his names is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” We had the opportunity in December to share good news by visiting our neighbors at Walnut Woods and singing Christmas carols.

As you enter the new year, remember that while the parties may be over, Jesus is with us. This is the best news we can have to launch a new year.

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.



Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

Monday, January 13 for February issue
Monday, February 10 for March issue
Monday, March 10 for April issue

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
1/5/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Epiphany of Our Lord	Alina Friz	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	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	Mary Kay Heimbach, Amy Moyer	Lauren Jones	Brian Moatz	Shannon Omlor	Mel Roth	Myles Omlor	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Scott Scheiry
1/19/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Philip Derr	Mel Roth, TBD	Bonnie Moatz, Heather Murray	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	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Bev Blake	Amy Moyer	Justin Jones	Jean Machamer	Brianna Rohrbach	Phil Haddad, Susan & Andy Varzally, Nathan Wanish	Nathan Wanish
2/2/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Camryn Friz	George Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jen Schlegel	Karen Pollock	Sarah Eidle	Michele Eidle	Melissa Eidle	Bev & Joe Blake, Mike Gilbert, Ed Schaeffer	Justin Jones
2/9/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Abby Torres	Melissa Eidle, Lauren Jones	Bonnie Moatz, Amy Moyer	Lauren Jones	Randy Rupert	Shannon Omlor	Karen Pollock	Myles Omlor	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houp, Josee Ruckebrod	Camryn Friz
2/16/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Grant Hersperger	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Dorothy Breitreutz	Mel Roth	Becky Scheiry	Sarah Eidle	Friz Family	Ashley Gheer	Lauren Jones, Bill Rohrbach, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Jason Eidle
2/23/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	Delaney Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Jodi Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Melissa Geary	Andy Varzally	Shannon Omlor	Nathan Wanish	Brianna Rohrbach	Sue & George Hill, Ros & Brian Moatz	Abbe Grofe

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed Preschool Closed	2 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	3 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	4 4:30p Come to the Table
5 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Christmas Meal Debrief	6 6:30p Girl Scouts	7	8 6:30p Worship Team	9 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	10 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study Congregation Council Retreat	11 Congregation Council Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Caring & Correspondence	13 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p Optimist Club of Boytown	14	15 8:15a Preschool Staff Meeting 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 10:00a Preschool Chapel Time	16 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	17 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	18 8:30a Worship Workday 4:30p Come to the Table
19 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	20 Martin Luther King Day Preschool Closed	21	22	23 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	24 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	25 4:30p Come to the Table
26 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	27 6:30p Girl Scouts	28 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boytown	29 2:00p Miller Keystone Blood Drive	30 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	31 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study Men's Retreat Departure	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Johanna Clark	4 Ryan DiPietro Earl Guinther
5	6	7 Abigail Rhoads	8 Elizabeth Rose	9 Connor Cordero Amy Moyer	10	11
12 Randy Rupert	13	14	15	16	17 Jenny Clark	18
19	20	21	22	23 Bev Blake Harper Gaugler	24 Amanda Kulhamer Ronald Sheidy	25 Dennis Strouse, Jr
26	27 Annabelle Burkert	28	29	30 Jason Eidle Jackson Fretz	31 Christopher Houser	

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

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boyertown, PA
Permit No. 10020

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 December 19, 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

bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org

treasurer@stjohnsboyertown.org

parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.