

Dear Siblings in Christ,

My wish for you during this season of Lent is that you would experience contentment. You may already have it in abundance. You may need it more than ever. You might be somewhere in between. It's also the wish I have for myself. While Lent is known for its focus on contemplation, repentance, and austerity, the focus seems to be softening in many arenas. It would be regrettable if "the world" relaxed this liturgical season's intent to deepen our personal and corporate spiritual growth.

Throughout my adult life I have held to a belief that every day will offer me a gift and that every day will offer me a teacher. Further, I believe that if I'm to receive this gift, I will need to be alert, awake, and receptive. On my 'best' days I have found it a bit easier for me to see the gift and the teacher. On days where struggle dominates, I've found it to be more difficult and sometimes seemingly impossible to fully be able to embrace the gift or the teacher. Still, I can say I've had very few days when I have been disappointed in this invitational way of living and being. When I serve with you, I am more able to see the teacher (Jesus) and his disciples (you) with more tenderness and openness to whatever happens.

My focus passage in recent years is a prayer, a wish, a dream, and a belief in a promise experienced by the apostle Paul. I have found life-shifting comfort in the following passage from Philippians 4:11-13.

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Our most recent trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico revealed to some and reminded others that we need to be re-awakened to the power of our beliefs and practices by seeing them at work in other people's lives. This year's trip to Mexico allowed me to experience these words anew among the many people we encountered. Returning from Mexico in time to embrace Lent more fully is the orientation I need, and perhaps our whole team needs, to see how we can further contemplate – and do! – our mission here at St. John's.

Be blessed!
Pastor Bob



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UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, March 2 @ 9:30 am

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Over the past Sundays, we have seen Jesus show himself to be Christ, the one anointed by God to be our Savior. This

Sunday, the Transfiguration, when Jesus appears on a mountain in divine glory, concludes the time after Epiphany. Three days after, on Ash Wednesday, we begin the climb to the mountain of Jesus' crucifixion. The church holds side-by-side the brilliance of God and the cross of Jesus.

Wednesday, March 5 @ 7:00 pm

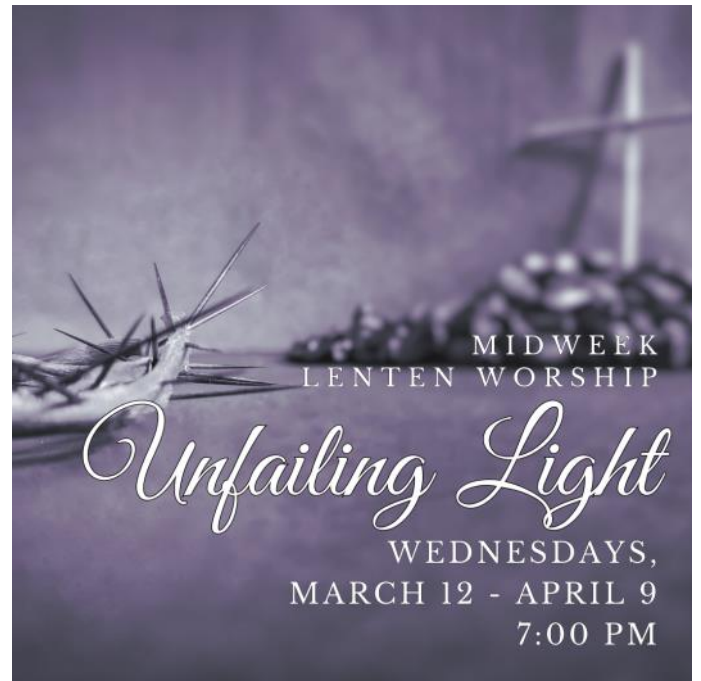
Ash Wednesday

The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.

Sunday, March 9 @ 9:30 am

First Sunday in Lent

Each year on the first Sunday in Lent we hear about Jesus being tested in the wilderness. In this way Jesus joined with us, who are also, one way or another, tested in some wilderness. We say Sundays "in" Lent, since when counting the forty days of Lent, we omit the six Sundays, because Sunday is always a celebration of Christ's resurrection. So this Sunday we are both in Lent and beyond Lent.



This year our midweek Lenten worship series is intended to center our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ's incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. God's image in us is beautifully diverse. Each week we'll hear from a different speaker on one of the 5 senses and sing together to the simple and engaging tunes of Marty Haugen's *Unfailing Light*.

Message Schedule

March 12 - Sight; *Brian Moatz*

March 19 - Sound; *Sam Kulp*

March 26 - Scent; *Pastor Bob*

April 2 - Touch; *Melanie Roth*

April 9 - Taste; *Michele Eidle*

If you've not attended a midweek lent service in the past, we strongly encourage you to make time in your schedule this year. It is not designed like a Sunday worship service and typically lasts 40 minutes.

First Communion

Is your child ready to receive the Holy sacrament?

If interested, contact Becky at parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org

Training

Sun, April 13
10:45 am
Sanctuary

First Holy Communion

Thurs, April 17
7:00 pm
Sanctuary





Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13 @ 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 pm

Easter Day

Sunday, April 20 @ 9:30 am



Join us in celebrating
Girl Scout Sunday
with the troops
that meet at St. John's.
Happening at worship on
Sunday, March 9.

JESUS IS TOO GOOD TO KEEP TO YOURSELF

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

Your personal invitation could play
a role in sparking a life-transforming
relationship with Jesus Christ.

Who will you invite?



20
25
Lent
DEVOTIONAL

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

THANK YOU
TO THE
41
VOLUNTEERS
THAT SUBMITTED
WRITINGS FOR OUR
LENT DEVOTIONAL.

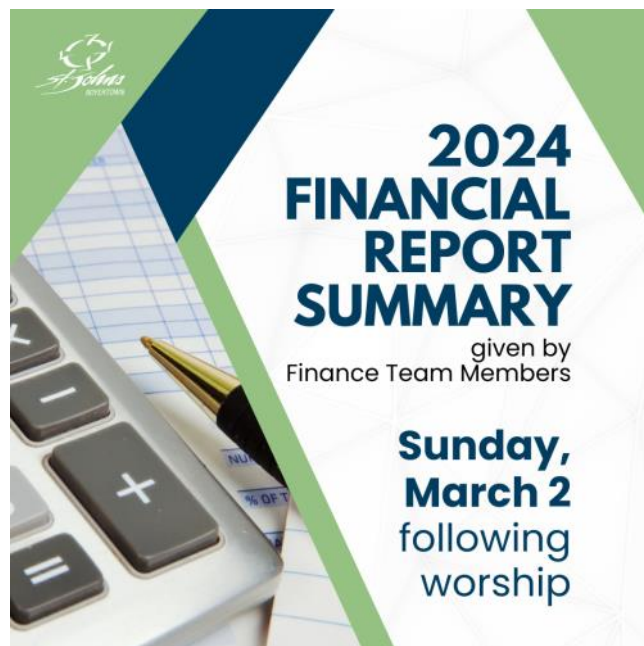
Devotionals have been mailed and
can be found online!

**SCAN
ME!**





On February 12, students invited a special grown-up to join them for breakfast, crafts, and bingo.



SOCIETY IN JESUS' TIME, *part 1*

By: Cathy Krause

As we begin to travel with Jesus toward Jerusalem, we need to recognize the structure of the society in which he lived. This will help us understand some of Jesus' statements, parables, and messages. The following is an overview of the society in which Jesus navigated.

During Jesus' life, Palestine was ruled by the Romans. At the top of the hierarchy was the Roman Emperor. The rulers appointed by the emperor also had wealth and power. These urban ruling elites (king, aristocratic families, high government officials, e.g., King Herod, Herod Antipas, Pilate) and retainers (servants, army, lower government officials, religious officials) comprised about 10% of the population. Jesus' ministry touched and troubled the soldiers, priests, land owners, and tax collectors (the retainers). Because there was no manufacturing, all wealth was derived from the land: ownership (rent, taxes, tributes – going to the government) and crops, herds, fishing (tithes – going to the religious institutions).

Below the urban ruling elites were the peasants: the artisans, farmers, fishers, herders, and workers. Workers would process grain, fruit, fish, meat, and wool. The peasants worked on land they did not own, could not keep most of what they harvested or herded, and had to pay taxes, rent, and/or tributes, and tithes. They were politically oppressed, economically exploited, and made legitimate by religion. As a "carpenter" Jesus fell into this category. A carpenter in those days was not an esteemed trade as it is today. Carpenters made doors, door frames, furniture, yokes, and plows. Being called a carpenter, or a tradesman, was not a compliment. These tradespeople were considered lower than the farmers.

They, however, were not the lowest of the lower classes. On the bottom of this society were the household slaves, and day laborers. They were so deeply in debt that they had to work for others without getting paid. They owned very little. The slaves, day laborers, and peasants made up 90% of the population.

In addition, there was tension between the large towns/cities and the rural areas. It was in the large towns that the governors, large land owners, tax collectors, government officials, and judges lived. Nazareth, where Jesus lived, was a small agricultural town. Please note that Jesus and his followers travel to small towns and villages, not to the cities. Jesus does not go to Jerusalem until late in his ministry. His ministry seems to be among the peasants, slaves, and laborers.

This society was also patriarchal: male dominated and hierarchical. It was mirrored in the family structure.

This gives a brief overview of ancient Palestinian society. However, there is more stratification within the Jewish community. That will be tackled next month.

Resources Consulted:

Howard, Cam. "A Portrait of Jesus | Social/Cultural World of Jesus." 1997-2015. Feb 2025. <www.aportraitofjesus.org/social> <https://carm.org/about-jesus/what-was-jesus-occupation/>

Olson, Marc. *The World Jesus Knew*. Minneapolis: Sparkhouse Family. 2017. 10-11.

Ungerleider, Samuel. "Jesus' Many Faces: Jesus' Social Class." 1998. 21 Jan 2025. <<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/jesus/socialclass.html>>

Wayne, Luke. "What Was Jesus' Occupation?" 12 Nov 2016, 21 Jan 2025. <<https://carm.org/about-jesus/what-was-jesus-occupation/>>

TEACHING TIME

Are you new to Lutheranism?

You may or may not be familiar with some of the 'Lutheran Buzzwords' we use here. Let's get familiar!

TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

We just concluded the "Time After Epiphany" which refers to the period following the Feast of Epiphany, which was celebrated on January 6th, and lasts until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, essentially encompassing the Sundays leading up to the start of Lent and focusing on the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world; this period is often considered a "season of light" in the liturgical calendar.

REFLECTIONS ON TRAVEL TO MEXICO

Eleven team members (some St. John's members and others, Boyertown community partners) traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico in February 2025 to join with staff of Wellspring Karitas Foundation (Berwyn, PA) to learn, serve, and grow in faith. This is the third year that St. John's has participated in this experience. Team members witnessed firsthand the grassroots projects developed there that allow local disabled people to have full-time, fair-wage employment; encourage young people to stay in school through alternative education; support local farmers, and feed marginalized populations and build community. Throughout the coming year you will read further accounts in our newsletter from the team. Included here are testimonies from some of our student travelers.



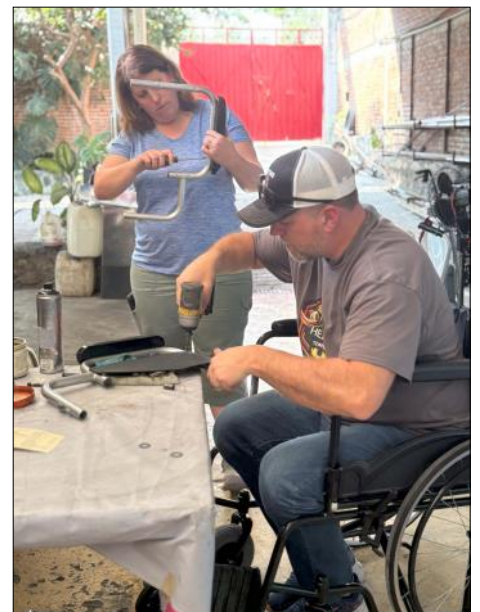
"One of my biggest takeaways from this trip was everyone's sense of community and connection. Everyone in Mexico had a connection to nature, they had a connection to themselves, but most importantly they had a connection to each other and their community. That's where I saw God at work on this trip."

-Myles Omlor



"I thought that what God was up to during the Mexico trip to Cuernavaca was he wanted us to think what was God trying to see. He was trying to help us to see the connections and communities in Mexico. I felt that the connections in Mexico were very close, and everyone was very grateful for what they had. Some people had little, and a lot of people had decent. People took what they had, and they made the best of it, and people were just happy for what they had."

-Anna Muzopappa



“When thinking about what I wanted to say and how my experiences have changed over the previous trips, I was truly struggling. I still find myself processing the countless times that I have seen God at work. I think ‘seeing’ God at work is good and important, but this past trip I have learned what ‘feeling’ God at work is like. The first two trips, I would hear the stories and feel bad for them and what they go through. Since being home, all I can think about is the question of, how can you help? That typically follows the question, where did you see, or now feel, God at work? I feel God at work inside of me as I am processing and shifting into a ‘how can I help’ mindset.”

-Camryn Friz



“One of Pastor Bob’s main points on the trip was feeling from your stomach and not your heart, and seeing when your stomach grows and where it shrinks, which means when you are happy and where you are sad. I felt this in many places. When I was in Mexico, the first place I felt this was when we were in the migrant center. I saw a little boy working in the sugarcane field - that made my stomach shrink. It made me feel sad, and it made me feel grateful for what I had. I also know that other people in this group felt the same way. Another thing that made my stomach grow was at the migrant school. All of us went outside with lots of other students there and played soccer with the little kids. And that just made me feel really great.”

-Tatum Friz

“During the Mexico trip, I saw God building communities and I saw that through all the people we met and how they were all very connected and they loved each other. They weren’t just like neighbors or friends down the street, but they were all family and they were all welcomed into each other’s homes. And when we stopped to get food at places, they were all very welcoming and kind to each other and to us.”

-Jaden Ehst



Scan here to view video
footage from the trip!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED

By: Shannon Omlor

On the evening of Saturday, February 22, St. John's hosted a spectacular concert with The Ringgold Band in honor of Black History Month. This free performance highlighted the remarkable contributions of African American musicians and composers throughout history.

With roots dating back to 1852, The Ringgold Band is a beloved institution known for its vibrant performances and commitment to the arts. This concert provided a captivating journey through music that celebrated the richness of African American heritage. Attendees were treated to an eclectic program featuring iconic works from the 19th century to contemporary masterpieces.

Pieces included the captivating swing of Duke Ellington and the vibrant melodies of Louis Armstrong, alongside powerful marches from WWI bandleader James Reese Europe. A highlight of the evening was the stunning compositions of Florence Price, the first African American woman to have a symphony performed by a major orchestra.

In addition to instrumental pieces, the concert featured moving vocal performances by John Coakley, including the anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," as well as a heartfelt rendition of Chris Tomlin's version of "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)".



**POTATO PROJECT
SEED CUTTING**

Saturday, April 26 | 10:00 AM

Eagle Messenger
Article Deadlines

Monday, March 10 for April issue

Monday, April 14 for May issue

Monday, May 12 for June issue

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
3/2/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Philip Derr	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Amanda Ehst	Jen Schlegel	Jason Friz	Lauren Jones	Melissa Eidle	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Susan & Andy Varzally	Scott Scheiry
3/5/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday	Camryn Friz	NA (packets)	Sue Hill	Amy Moyer	Michele Eidle	Justin Jones	Tom Engle	Myles Omlor	Sandy & Terry Wade	Shannon Omlor
3/9/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 1 <i>Girl Scout Sunday</i>	Delaney Hersperger	Jen Friz, Jen Schlegel	Bonnie Moatz, Heather Murray	Bev Blake	Terry Wade	Jason Friz	Ros Moatz	Ashley Gheer	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Justin Jones
3/12/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Unfailing Light	Tatum Friz	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Justin Jones	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Jason Eidle
3/16/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 2	Grant Hersperger	Mel Roth, TBD	Mary Kay Heimbach, Amy Moyer	Mel Roth	Dave Babb	Sarah Eidle	Martha Bentley	Melissa Eidle	Lauren Jones, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Bill Rohrbach	Camryn Friz
3/19/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Unfailing Light	Camryn Friz	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Jason Friz	NA	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake	Abbe Grofe
3/23/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 3	Philip Derr	Bev & Joe Blake	Dorothy Breitreutz	Jason Friz	Bev Blake	Shannon Omlor	Susan & Andy Varzally	Ashley Gheer	Josee Ruckenbrod, Jennifer Schlegel, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Scott Scheiry
3/26/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Unfailing Light	Tatum Friz	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Justin Jones	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie	Shannon Omlor
3/30/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 4	Abby Torres	Melissa Eidle, Lauren Jones	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Lauren Jones	Lori Carnes	Jason Friz	Sarah Eidle	Myles Omlor	Mike Gilbert, Phil Haddad, Gerry Krause, Ed Schaeffer	Justin Jones
4/2/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM		TBD	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Shannon Omlor	NA	Ashley Gheer	Bunny & Ron Riffle	Justin Jones
4/6/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 5	Delaney Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Mary Kay Heimbach, Heather Murray	Amy Moyer	Michele Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Sue Grofe	Brianna Rohrbach	Sue & George Hill, Barbara Houpp, Carol Sematis	Camryn Friz
4/9/2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM		TBD	NA	NA	NA	TBD	Jason Friz	NA	Melissa Eidle	Ros Moatz, Jennifer Schlegel	Jason Eidle
4/13/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Passion/Palm Sunday	Abby Torres	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Amanda Ehst	Sue Hill	Shannon Omlor	Mel Roth	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Bonnie & Rick Moatz, Sandy & Terry Wade	Abbe Grofe
4/17/2025	Thursday	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday <i>First Communion</i>	Tatum Friz	Tom Engle, Melissa Geary	Mary Kay Heimbach, Amy Moyer	Melissa Geary	Phyllis Kershner	Shannon Omlor	Ros Moatz	Ashley Gheer	Bev & Joe Blake	Scott Scheiry
4/18/2025	Friday	7:00 PM	Good Friday	NA	NA	Mary Kay Heimbach, Amy Moyer	Lauren Jones	TBD (multiple)	Jason Friz	Bonnie Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Ros & Brian Moatz	Justin Jones
4/20/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Easter	Philip Derr	Shannon Omlor, Becky Scheiry	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jennifer Schlegel	Jen Friz	Sarah Eidle	Jean Machamer	Myles Omlor	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Ros & Brian Moatz, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Camryn Friz
4/27/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday of Easter	Grant Hersperger	Bev & Joe Blake	Jodi Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Bev Blake	Jill Koch	Shannon Omlor	Karen Pollock	Melissa Eidle	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Jason Eidle

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 4:30p Come to the Table
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Financial Review Meeting	3 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Joint Parking Lot Committee	4 6:30p Worship Team	5 Ash Wednesday Oley Cluster Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00p Worship	6 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	7 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	8 4:30p Come to the Table
9 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Coffee & Conversation 10:45a Men's Retreat Debrief	10 5:00p Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	11	12 8:15a Preschool Staff Meeting 7:00p Midweek Lenten Worship	13 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	14 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	15 4:30p Come to the Table
16 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	17 6:30p Girl Scouts	18 6:30p Finance Team 7:00p Preschool Parent Education	19 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 10:00a Preschool Chapel Time 7:00p Midweek Lenten Worship	20 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	21 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	22 4:30p Come to the Table
23 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	24 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	25 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown	26 Preschool Professional Learning 7:00p Midweek Lenten Worship 7:45p Congregation Council	27 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	28 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	29 4:30p Come to the Table
30 9:30a Worship Celebration, 'Baptism' 9:30a Sunday School	31 6:30p Girl Scouts					

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sam Kulp
2 Jerry Krause	3 Perry Guinther	4	5	6 Linda Rohrbach	7 Janet Erb Robert Strunk	8
9	10 Rob Brile George Hill	11	12 Myles Omlor	13 Barbara Houp	14 Phil Haddad Gracie Martin	15 Molly Byrne
16	17 Jessica Brunner	18	19 Sarah White	20 Melanie Conrad Rodney Henry	21	22 Kenneth Bilger Richard Brown Sr
23 Vicky Henry	24	25	26 Donald Weil	27	28 Brian Christman Paula Kriebel	29 Karen Pollock
30 Joseph Cremi Ronald Davidheiser	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 February 25, 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

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.