



Dear Siblings in Christ,

The starting point for this reflection has deep roots and reaches back to our planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting, when Becky Erb wrote some reflective thoughts about stewardship. She named something many of us have wrestled with - how one little word, *stewardship*, can stir up both inspiration and resistance depending on how we were taught to understand it. For some, it evokes joy and generosity. For others, it feels like a fearful appeal for money.

Becky reminded us then, and it remains true today, that the way of Jesus invites us to move from a culture of scarcity to a culture of abundance. Where fear closes fists, gratitude and generosity open hearts. Congregations that live into abundance are places where joy is palpable—where trust in God's provision fuels our discipleship.

Here's how Becky put it in 2021:

"When Pastor Bob first brought up the concept of stewardship during the early stages of planning the 2021 Ministry Action Plan, I'll admit, my reaction was hesitant. I thought stewardship meant 'the old way' of doing things—budget and numbers, just another way of saying 'we want your money.' But over time, I came back to the basics: stewardship is not a bad word. At its core, it means utilizing and managing all resources God provides—for the glory of God and the betterment of creation. It is not simply an appeal for money, but a plan for taking care of the world God entrusted to us. And when paired with gratitude—when we begin with daily thanksgiving for God's blessings—our stewardship becomes an act of joy."

That perspective has shaped our journey over these past years.

At St. John's, we say often: **stewardship is everything we do after we say "yes" to Jesus Christ.** It is the daily practice of discipleship—following Him and helping others follow Him. It is not obligation born of guilt or fear, but a joyful response to God's love and a way of living with purpose.

This year we are especially mindful of how God has been showing up among us—in worship, in Small Groups, in youth faith formation, in service projects, and in the quiet conversations that knit us together. Every story of impact, from youngest to oldest, is a testimony to God's presence and grace.

## Ministry Action Plan and Next Steps

As we look back on 2025, we are deeply grateful for the faithful work of our Ministry Action Groups (Learning, Worship, Witness, Service, and Support). Together, they have been discerning how to strengthen our ministries today while preparing for the future. Earlier this year, our finance team introduced the vision of preparing **Statement of Intent Cards** as part of the 2026 Ministry Action Plan (MAP).

The purpose of these cards is simple: to invite every member of St. John's to prayerfully consider how you will support the mission and ministries of our congregation in the coming year. These are not debts to be collected or obligations to be enforced. They are statements of intent—opportunities to pause, reflect, and align our financial giving, time, and talents with God's call on our lives.

## Timeline

- In the coming weeks, staff and leaders will complete their Statement of Intent Cards.
- On **Sunday, November 9**, all members will be invited to place their Statement of Intent Cards on the altar.
- With the Statement of Intent Cards completed and tallied we will more accurately present our Ministry Action Plan on **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, immediately following worship.

This is a season of revitalization—a time to focus our energy, move our purpose forward, and make our vision a reality. Stewardship is not only about financial support; it is also about prayer, participation, and faithful discipleship.

Thank you for the many ways you already contribute to the life and mission of St. John's. Together, may we continue to follow Jesus and help others follow Him—with hope, gratitude, and generosity, trusting that God will use our gifts to bring transformation in our church and community.

Be Blessed!  
Pastor Bob

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## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### TIME AFTER PENTECOST

Green is the liturgical color for the time after Pentecost because it symbolizes growth, new life, and hope. This longest season of the church year follows Pentecost, marking the beginning of the Church's mission and growth in the world. The green color reflects the natural world's growth during this time, reminding us of the spiritual growth and maturation of believers nurtured by the Church and the Gospel.



## NOT A “DEBBIE”

By: Cathy Krause; Thanks to Phyllis Kershner for this idea.

Oh, no; she is not a Debbie. She is strong, to be obeyed. She is a prophet, a judge, a leader of military men. Not a soft Debbie. She is called by God.

Before Israel had kings, God appointed judges and prophets. According to the Bible Dictionary, a judge is “one who dispenses justice, punishing the evil-doer, and vindicating the righteous.” In Hebrew, the word for *judgment* means a “rule by which a person must be guided.” In the period of the judges of Israel, an additional meaning is “that of a leader in battle and a ruler in peace.” (p. 676)

Obviously, a prophet is something different from a judge. The Bible Dictionary defines a prophet as “one who is called or one who calls.” (p. 1037) Prophets were “primarily a person of the word of God.” They spoke to their “situation mostly by means of warnings and encouragements concerning the future.” And, “prediction arises from the fact the prophets speak in the name of the holy Ruler of history.” (p. 1038)

Deborah was both a judge and a prophet. She was also a priestess. Unlike a priest, she did not offer sacrifices, but she did lead worship and preached. The only other person to be a prophet and a judge was Samuel. Deborah was the only female judge of the Hebrews. As a judge, she provided spiritual guidance and settled disputes. She became a judge when Israel had been subjugated by Jabin, King of Canaan.

Because Israel followed false gods, God gave them to Jabin for 20 years. Jabin's army, including 900 iron chariots, was led by Sisera, a feared commander. Deborah was told by God to tell Barak to muster the tribes of Israel, 10,000 men, and to lead them into battle against Sisera. Barak agreed only if Deborah accompanied him and the troops. Deborah did go with Barak, but told him that he will not be the one to kill Sisera – it will be a woman.

The Israelites prevailed against the Canaanites: Barak and his troops charged down the slope of Mount Tabor. God threw Sisera's army into panic and Sisera jumped from his chariot and fled on foot. The Israelites pursued the Canaanites, killing all by the sword. Deborah's story and her poem describing the battle at Mount Tabor are recorded in Chapters 4 and 5 of Judges. Do take time to read it.

Deborah was one of the most powerful and influential women in the Old Testament. The leadership role, as prophet and judge, was usually a role for men. But, Deborah was known for her faith and her action. Her song of victory, Chapter 5 in the book of Judges, celebrates triumph over oppression and praises God for his role in the Israelites' victory. Oh, no; do not call her Debbie.



### Resources consulted:

Nelson, Susan J. “Who Was Deborah in the Bible?” 11 June 2025. 1 July 2025.

<[www.christianity.com/wiki/people/who-was-deborah-in-the-bible.html](http://www.christianity.com/wiki/people/who-was-deborah-in-the-bible.html)>

*The New Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1970. 133, 303, 676, and 1037-1038.

Pero, Joyce. “The Story of Deborah in the Bible”

n.d. 1 July 2025. <[www.awomenaftergodsownheart.org/the-story-of-deborah-in-the-bible/](http://www.awomenaftergodsownheart.org/the-story-of-deborah-in-the-bible/)>

Stoppe, Rhonda. “Who Was Deborah in the Bible and Why Was She So Important?” 15 Aug 2024. 1 July 2025. <[www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-deborah-and-why-was-she-so-important.html](http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-deborah-and-why-was-she-so-important.html)>

Ward, Elaine. *Old Testament Women*. New York: Enchanted Lion Books. 2004. 16-17.

“Who Was Deborah in the Bible?” 2002-2025. 1 July 2025.

<[www.gotquestions.org/life-Deborah.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/life-Deborah.html)>

Yolen, Jane and Barbara Diamond Goldin. *Meet Me at the Well*. Watertown: Charlesbridge. 2018. 54-61.



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By: Bethany Calderwood

September is here - Happy New Year! With much of my life spent in education, September has always been the start of my year. That means right now I'm thinking about New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions tend to get a bad rap - easy come, easy go. However, many major disciplines affirm the concept of goal-setting. If you know where you want to go, it can be easier to take intentional steps to get there. Whether your year starts in September, January, on your birthday, or some other time, will you pause with me to consider some goals?

Why think goals? Reality check: Do you ever feel bogged down by details? Swamped by daily tasks? Overwhelmed by options? Maybe those feelings are followed by anxiety, guilt, disappointment, or frustration. Sometimes, a glimpse of the big picture can help to combat these pressures. At the end of the day, what do you really want? What about at the end of the month, or the year, or a few years from now?

One of my favorite questions on our beginning-of-the-year family survey for preschool is: What do you hope your child gains from this year of preschool? Some answers involve tasks, behaviors, or relationships; other answers can be surprising. When we know what is important to a family, we can better support them.

If you have a school-bound child in your life, you will probably be helping them make choices this school year. Perhaps September's start of school is a good time for definition - talk with your child about their hopes and goals for their school year. Like New Year's resolutions - but better. Maybe you don't have a strong attachment to the start of school. Taking a moment to consider your priorities and goals can still benefit you mentally and emotionally.

Whether or not you're heading back to school, consider how your goals compare to God's word. Don't forget to pray about it!



## OCEAN CITY, NJ YOUTH RETREAT



Twenty students returned from Ocean City, New Jersey with a new understanding of the Catechism; a lesson on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and ways to deal with anxiety, loss, and grief. New friendships built and old friendships made stronger, the group's positive attitude and high energy kept them learning, playing, and growing for four days! Hear more about their experience by watching the August 10 worship service on our YouTube channel!



"On this trip I was reminded that God is always with us and how forgiving He is through the different lessons. I also got a lot closer with other kids on this trip. I had a lot of fun at the beach --the waves were really big and rough though. Thank you so much to all the people who helped make this retreat happen!" - Delaney Hersperger

"I'm super grateful for the lessons Mrs. Hersperger taught. I am grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Erb cooking. Finally I am grateful for Pastor Bob making this trip possible and making a very fun experience for everyone." - Charlie Ellixson



"Thank you to everyone who prepared this trip. I learned that baptism is not only about the water, and we are all already loved by God. I had fun at the beach and the boardwalk, and I enjoyed learning about God." - Grant Hersperger

"I'm grateful for Pastor Bob for the knowledge that he provided to help lead and educate all of us. I'm also grateful for the Erbs and Mr. Gheer for providing us food and for the environment and the campsite which gave us all a safe space to deepen connections." - Piper Ellixson

# BACK TO SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

for kids in need in the Boyertown & surrounding school districts to receive weekend meals

**August 31 - September 21**

Bring your donation to worship or to the Parish House lobby during office hours (please call ahead)

Donate by Check or from the Approved List below

**Your monetary contribution goes even further!**

Operation 143 can purchase food at a discounted rate.

**\$21** feeds a child for 1 weekend

**\$42** feeds a child for 2 weekends

**\$84** feeds a child for 1 month

Each backpack provides:

Friday - dinner  
Saturday - breakfast, lunch, dinner  
Sunday - breakfast, lunch, dinner

Checks made payable to Operation 143



Pre-Approved Shopping List	
Item	Product Example
Tuna To-Go	StarKist Lunch To Go
Compleats Meals	Hormel
Mac & Cheese	Chef Boyardee Mac & Cheese (7.5 oz. or 14.25 oz.)
Spaghettios/Ravioli	Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli (7.5 oz. or 14.25 oz.)
Chicken & Beef Soups	Campbells To Go Chicken & Beef Noodle Soups
Fruit Cups/Applesauce	Dole Fruit in Juice & Motts Applesauce
Granola Bars/Fruit Bars	Quaker Chewy Bars (chocolate), NutriGrain Bars
Pop-Tarts	Kellogg's Pop-Tarts
Cereal (single serve)	Kellogg's, General Mills
Non-refrigerated Milk	Hershey's, Horizon, Giant (8 oz. boxes with straw)
Variety Snack Packs	Gold Fish, Cheez-Its, Animal Cookies, Crackers
Fruit Snacks	Welch's Kellogg's
Water	Store Brand Bottled Water (12 packs/16 oz. bottles)
Juice Boxes	CapriSun, HiC, Juicy Juice, Apple & Eve
Pudding	Jello Pudding Snacks

SWSP does not endorse any of the items or brands listed. All items should be sized for a single individual and ready to eat with no cooking required. Items should be easy to open without a can opener. Products containing peanuts will not be distributed.

Visit [operation143.org](http://operation143.org) to volunteer & contribute  
A PROGRAM OF OPERATION 143  
238 High Street, Suite 103 & 104, Pottstown, PA 19464  
Contact: Lisa Heverly 484.300.4937 | [lisah@operationbp.org](mailto:lisah@operationbp.org)



Supplying Local Food Banks!

## It's harvest time!

### Potato Project

**Sunday, September 14 @ 1:00 pm**  
Location to be determined

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE



We're harvesting potatoes to be donated to local food banks.

Hot dogs, fresh cut fries, and drinks provided on site after harvesting. All ages welcome!

Questions?

Contact John at [johnhgeer@comcast.net](mailto:johnhgeer@comcast.net)



## PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, October 12  
*Handbells play at worship*

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 26  
*Tuba quartet plays at worship*

## SMALL GROUPS

### The Chosen

**Tuesdays - September 9, 23 & October 7, 21**  
**6:30 pm Conference Room**

### Lutheran Trump Cards

**Mondays - September 15, 22, 29 & October 6, 13**  
**6:30 pm Conference Room**

**DESCRIPTIONS & REGISTRATION ON OUR WEBSITE**



## Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

**Monday, September 8** for October issue  
**Monday, October 13** for November issue  
**Monday, November 10** for December issue

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
9/7/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Abby Torres	Jen & Jason Friz	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Jason Friz	Bonnie Moatz	Sarah Eidle	Susan & Andy Varzally	Melissa Eidle	Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Abbe Grofe
9/14/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Camryn Friz	Michele & Dave Eidle	Melissa Eidle	Amanda Ehst	Sue Hill	Jason Friz	Ros Moatz	Myles Omlor	Mike Gilbert, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Ed Schaeffer	Scott Scheiry
9/21/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Tatum Friz	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jennifer Schlegel	Mary Kay Heimbach	Shannon Omlor	Sue Grofe	Ashley Gheer	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Bev & Joe Blake	Camryn Friz
9/28/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Melissa Eidle, Mel Roth	Jodi Dykie, Nancy Edwards	Mel Roth	Phyllis Kershner	Sarah Eidle	Friz Family	Brianna Rohrbach	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Ros & Brian Moatz	Jason Eidle
10/5/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Camryn Friz	George Hill, Bonnie Moatz	Amy Moyer, Heather Murray	Melissa Geary	Dave Long	Jason Friz	Karen Pollock	Melissa Eidle	Carol Sematis, Sandy & Terry Wade, Terry Wadsworth	Abbe Grofe
10/12/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Bev & Joe Blake	Jodi Dykie, Mary Kay Heimbach	Bev Blake	Brian Moatz	Shannon Omlor	Michele Eidle	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake, Susan & Andy Varzally	Scott Scheiry
10/19/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Abby Torres	Michele & Dave Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Amy Moyer	Mel Roth	Sarah Eidle	Tom Engle	Ashley Gheer	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houpp, Josee Ruckebrod	Camryn Friz
10/26/2025	Sunday	9:30 AM	Reformation Day	Tatum Friz	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Melissa Eidle	Amanda Ehst	Jennifer Schlegel	Jason Friz	Jean Machamer	Brianna Rohrbach	Jerry Krause, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Ed Schaeffer	Jason Eidle

# SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Office Closed Operation 143 Food Drive <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>2</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 6:00p Building a Better Boyertown	<b>3</b> Operation 143 Food Drive Oley Cluster 6:30p Worship Team	<b>4</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p Preschool Open House 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>5</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>6</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>7</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 11:00a Ministry Action Plan	<b>8</b> Operation 143 Food Drive Preschool First Day 5:00 Newsletter Submission 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Jr. Optimist Club 7:00p Joint Parking Lot 7:30p Optimist Club	<b>9</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 6:30p The Chosen	<b>10</b> Operation 143 Food Drive	<b>11</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>12</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>13</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>14</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Coffee & Conversation 1:00p Potato Project Harvest	<b>15</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards Small Group	<b>16</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 6:30p Finance Team	<b>17</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 9:00a Preschool Drop-off Social 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen	<b>18</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>19</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>20</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>21</b> Operation 143 Food Drive 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 6:30p Girl Scout Service Leaders Unit	<b>22</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards Small Group	<b>23</b> 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown 6:30p The Chosen	<b>24</b> 6:30p Congregation Council	<b>25</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service w/Communion 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>26</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>27</b> 8:30a Worship Team Workday 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>28</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Christmas Meal Planning	<b>29</b> 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lutheran Trump Cards Small Group	<b>30</b>				

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Lori Carnes Stephanie Krause	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Margery Sell	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Robert Sell Ryan Smith
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Mike Omlor	<b>9</b> Janice Moyer	<b>10</b> Amanda Martin	<b>11</b> Mary Kay Heimbach	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Sharon Shollenberger Hope Strouse
<b>14</b> Michael Huber	<b>15</b> Pele Young	<b>16</b> Chelsea Hersperger Carol Sematis	<b>17</b> Joan Millard	<b>18</b> Robert Martin	<b>19</b> Sarah Everingham Rick Moatz	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Roxanne Eidle Madison Robb	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



# EAGLE MESSENGER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | 45 North Reading Avenue | Boyertown, PA 19512  
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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 August 26, 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

Bethany Calderwood, Director of Preschool Ministry

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.