

December 7, 2025 | 9:30 am  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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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.



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BOYERTOWN

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AUTHENTIC WORSHIP † INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS † SACRIFICIAL SERVICE † RADICAL GENEROSITY

# CORE VALUES

**AUTHENTIC  
WORSHIP**



**INTENTIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS**



**SACRIFICIAL  
SERVICE**



**RADICAL  
GENEROSITY**



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

## BAPTISMAL PROMISE

### GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP



**LIVE**

among God's faithful people



**HEAR**

the word of God



**SHARE**

in the Lord's Supper



**PROCLAIM**

the good news of God in Christ  
through word and deed



**SERVE**

all people, following the example of Jesus



**STRIVE**

for justice and peace in all the earth

# WELCOME

You are a blessing to us, and we're glad you're here today!

## NEW HERE?

Please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering - you are our guest! Rather, please ask an usher for a Let's Get Acquainted card and drop it in the offering plate.

Restrooms are located on the same level as the sanctuary. Exit the back of the sanctuary, turn left into Parish House, turn left again at ramp and continue midway down hallway. Restrooms are on the right.

Gluten-free communion wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle.

## WHERE DO MY KIDS GO?

Children are always welcome to worship. Sunday School is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade. Families are encouraged to begin worship together at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Children are dismissed from worship and escorted to their classroom, located on the second floor of the Parish House. Children are released to parents at worship conclusion, approximately 10:30 am.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to pray - your needs are important to us. Prayer request cards can be obtained from an usher and may be filled out and dropped in the offering plate.

### GATHERING TIMES

Sunday | 9:30 am | Sanctuary  
**Worship Celebration with Holy Communion**  
**Livestream on YouTube (St John's ELC Boyertown)**

Thursday | 8:00 pm  
**Service Broadcast on Comcast Channel 98**

### GET CONNECTED

Connect with God, each other and our community! Follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

<b>Acolyte</b>	Delaney Hersperger Lori & Jesse Shoemaker	<b>Media</b>	Shannon Omlor
<b>Altar Assistants</b>	Jen & Jason Friz	<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Mervine, Amelia Shelgren
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jodie Dykie, Nancy Edwards	<b>Prayers</b>	Sue Grofe
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jason Friz	<b>Sound</b>	Ashley Gheer
<b>Lector</b>	Sarah Eidle	<b>Video</b>	Camryn Friz
<b>Ushers</b>	Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Susan & Andy Varzally		

Flowers given in celebration of Nathan's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday by his parents, Amy and Fred Vogt and Alex.

## Second Sunday of Advent



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

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### PRELUDE

### VIDEO

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The congregation may stand.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

*This hymn is often used as a signal for the beginning of Advent. We pray for Christ's coming and freedom from sin and fear which bounds us.*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*Sung as the Advent wreath is lit.*



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Change My Heart, O God



*Refrain*  
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.  
*End*  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.  
*Refrain*  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953  
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa  
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

*Children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the

Gentiles shall hope.” <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**



*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ELW 255

*This hymn recalls John the Baptist encouraging others to prepare for Jesus's coming. We must be bold and outgoing in our faith just like John. Even in challenging times our faith is strong, and our voices are powerful.*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER PETITION

### Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW 752

*Sung through twice.*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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*The congregation may kneel.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*During this time of prayer, you are encouraged to meditate fully  
on the prayers offered by the reader.*

*Prayer response:*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen.**

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

### **The Table**

### **Chris Tomlin**

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore at His table.

Come all you weary, come and find

His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night of his betrayal  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Please fill out a communion card and hand to an usher or place in the box at back of sanctuary. Today we receive the sacrament at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle. Return to your seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion can be brought to you.*

*The congregation may stand.*

### **BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

*Advent is all about preparing for the King's arrival. This hymn uses the imagery of a path which must be cleared to make way for Christ's coming. We can feel anticipation, hope, and love when we join in singing this hymn together this Advent season.*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

**GUESTS** are always welcome to the Table!

**MEMBERS** (*two types*)

Voting & Non-voting

**KEEPING MEMBERSHIP SIMPLE**

1. The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at St. John's, or any ELCA congregation:
  - You request a transfer
  - You ask to be removed
  - You depart this life
2. Voting members must make a record of having:
  - Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
  - Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name is included

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

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### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Parish House 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
10:45 AM	Annual Congregation Meeting	Sanctuary
	Congregation Council	Conference Room
3:30 PM	Shop with a Cop	Fellowship Hall/Lower Level

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 8**

10:00 AM	Yoga Class	Room 205
5:00 PM	Newsletter Submission	
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Joint Parking Lot Committee	Conference Room
7:30 PM	Optimist Club of Boyertown	Lower Level

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

9:30 AM	Joyful Sisters of Service	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	The Chosen Season 2 Small Group	Conference Room

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

10:00 AM	Move and Groove Class	Room 205
6:00 PM	Soup Supper	Lower Level
7:00 PM	Midweek Advent Service	Sanctuary

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 98

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
5:00 PM	Julie Longacre Art Show Opening	Lower Level
7:00 PM	Director's Big Band Christmas Concert	Sanctuary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 – Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Parish House 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
10:00 AM	Julie Longacre Art Show	Lower Level
10:45 AM	Coffee & Conversation	Lower Level
11:15 AM	Christmas Meal Volunteer Walk Through	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Girl Scout Service Unit Leaders	Lower Level

Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera to  
connect to our website and view more of  
what's happening at St. John's!



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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

*We do this by:*

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

*With a focus on:*

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

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Pastor Bob Machamer

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Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm