

# EAGLE MESSENGER



Published by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown, PA

FEBRUARY 2026

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS SACRIFICIAL SERVICE RADICAL GENEROSITY

This newsletter entry is likely going to seem different than those I've submitted in the past. The invitation, however, is just as real and is about the same subject – Jesus.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago Mark Allan Powell, Robert and Phyllis Leatherman Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, wrote a book titled *Loving Jesus*. I have enjoyed reading and returning to it frequently for as many years as it's been out. Mostly, it's been one of those resources that seems to fit my heart longings. I have found it to be both devotional and a helpful tool to nurture an ongoing growth in faith in surprisingly fresh ways with new insights gained with each reading.

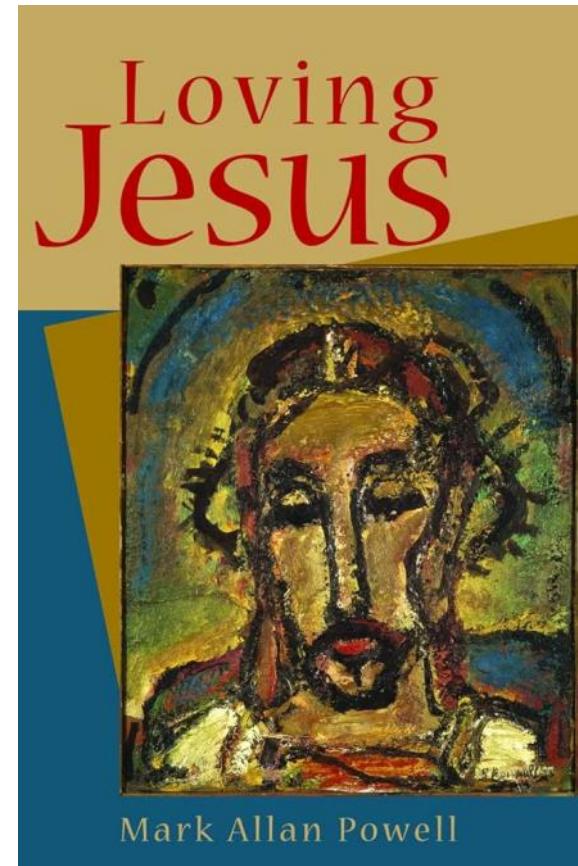
I've always desired, despite my human tendencies to get distracted, more than a "Jesus is God and I am not" relationship with my Lord. I've hungered for an intimate love. I've never really felt the need to say God is on my side because I don't think that paints the fullest truth. I believe that my desire to be on God's side is what God desires from God's creation.

Our Small Groups have been intentionally designed to be short term for a variety of reasons, one being most people can commit to a 4 to 5 week learning opportunity. Most importantly of all, most are not seeking a lifelong commitment to the group, rather a lifelong commitment to growing in Christ.

So, here's the invitation. I'm looking for those who are ready to go deeper through a 10-month study where we will meet twice a month using Powell's book, *Loving Jesus*. I plan to kick it off, teach a few chapters (typically around 10 pages) after which I will pass the baton to one of our Small Group leaders repeating that process over the course of ten months. This results in a variety of teachers and variety of topics connected to the theme of Loving Jesus. My hope is that by reading a few pages followed by reflection, holy conversation, and prayer, we will be able to love deeper and share that love by reflecting it back into the world. Why am I inviting you to participate? Easy, because I want you to know how much you are loved and how much you are needed in sharing God's love with all people.

My heart feels good every time I read Powell's book. I hope you will feel the same. My prayer is that in 2026 we will spend time Loving Jesus and Living Jesus together!

Be blessed!  
Pastor Bob



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## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### **Sunday, February 15 @ 9:30 am** **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

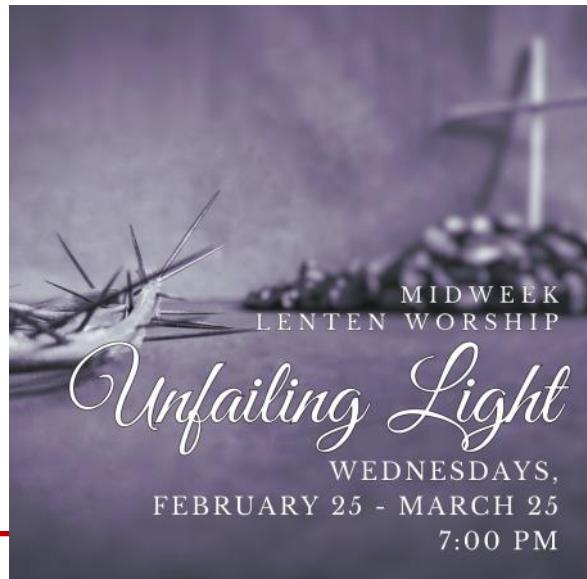
Over the past Sundays, we have seen Jesus show himself to be Christ, the one anointed by God to be our Savior. This Sunday, the Transfiguration, when Jesus appears on a mountain in divine glory, concludes the time after Epiphany. Three days after, on Ash Wednesday, we begin the climb to the mountain of Jesus' crucifixion. The church holds side-by-side the brilliance of God and the cross of Jesus.

### **Wednesday, February 18 @ 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, February 22 @ 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.



The Sunday lectionary for Lent in year A reveals Jesus in conversation with both friends and adversaries. Lent's first Sunday finds him confronting God's ancient adversary in Matthew's account of the temptation. The second Sunday presents Jesus' interaction with the seeker, Nicodemus, who is perhaps not ready to make a commitment to following this new teacher. The third, fourth, and fifth Sundays are full of intriguing conversation partners for Jesus: the Samaritan woman at the well, the man who received his sight, Martha and Mary after the death of their brother Lazarus. (These last stories were used in some ancient churches as part of baptismal preparation, essential to the Lenten season in the early church.)

During our five midweek services, we will join the conversation between Jesus and his partners from the previous Sunday's gospel reading. How does each character inform a contemporary life of discipleship? How might Jesus respond now to our own questions, confusions, and need for healing? ([sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com)) Each week we'll hear from a different speaker on one of these conversations and sing together to the simple and engaging tunes of Marty Haugen's Unfailing Light.

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. You can get more familiar with our Unfailing Light midweek services by viewing past services on our YouTube channel (*St. John's ELC Boyertown*).

## First Communion

Is your child ready to receive the Holy sacrament?

If interested, contact Shannon at [somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org)

**Training**  
Sun, March 29  
10:45 am  
Sanctuary

**First Holy Communion**  
Thurs, April 2  
7:00 pm  
Sanctuary

## St. John's Girl Scouts Troop 1759

SELLING COOKIES AT REDNERS BOYERTOWN  
SAT, FEBRUARY 7  
10AM - 2PM



or order online





## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

By: Bethany Calderwood

"What's your name?" It's a question some young children ask with glee and persistence, carefully taking inventory of the people surrounding them. When do we stop asking people's names? And why? Do we stop caring? Are we embarrassed or afraid? Maybe too rushed to take the time?

Your name is special to you. If you're like many children, the first letters you learned were letters from your name, and then maybe letters that represented your loved ones. (My kids learned M for mommy, D for daddy, and can you believe all four grandparents start with G!)

Unfortunately, soon kids also encounter the negative situation: "They called me a name!" Frankly, some childish insults can almost appear comical to our jaded adult ears. (What's so bad about calling you *that*? I've heard worse!) But the wound is real. Children do NOT want to be called by the wrong name. Does anyone?

Why is name-calling hurtful? My name—what I call myself, what my loved ones call me—is a part of my identity. Children are learning who they are and what it means to be "their name."

Who knows your name? More importantly, who calls you by name? Who has special names for you? Do you know—and really understand—that God knows your name? Jesus talks about the Good Shepherd calling his sheep by name. Jesus called Mary by name, called Lazarus by name—Jesus calls you by name. Your name is known and used by the God who made and loves you. Close your eyes a moment. Can you imagine Jesus calling your name?

In preschool, when we mention a key truth like this, I make certain to state it for each person in the room: Ellen, God knows your name; Michael, God knows your name... Take a minute to say that aloud for me, using your own name. Then think about that over the next few days.

Along with focusing on names (using other children's names not just as kindness but as a form of more effective social communication and problem-solving; also, writing our own names), preschool has been busy in other ways during the month of January! We enjoyed a Winter unit, including discussions of snow, hibernation, and winter sports. We hosted a Hot Cocoa Drop-off Social for parents and collected "white gifts" for Preston's Pantry (to match our snowy theme). In Art we made snow globes, and we also conducted a "white things" scavenger hunt around the building. We found beauty in the white part of winter!

*send some love*

Mail a note of cheer  
to a homebound member!

Addresses available  
February 1 & 8  
from the Valentine tree  
in the Sanctuary.

On February 1 and 8, 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 a valentine. This small act reminds our homebound members that they are remembered and cherished by their St. John's family!



MILLER KEYSTONE  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FEBRUARY 19  
2 PM - 7 PM  
REGISTER AT [GIVEAPINT.ORG](http://GIVEAPINT.ORG)



**2025 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY**  
Sunday, March 1, following worship  
Sanctuary

**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY**  
Sunday, March 8 @ 9:30 AM  
Sanctuary

# STAY JESUS

By: Jennifer Schlegel, Congregation Council President

On Friday, January 9 and Saturday, January 10, members of congregation council and others, including Shannon Omlor, Bethany Calderwood, Sandy Wade, Becky Erb and Brian and Ros Moatz participated in a congregation council “pre-retreat.” I have to say this was a very open, trusting, and anxiety-free retreat. We recognized all that we’ve done and need to do to move away from being “church” and toward living as a “community of faith.”

January 10 was also my father’s birthday. One of his favorite sayings was “Stay the Course” – when there’s financial turmoil, stay the course. When there’s political upheaval, stay the course. When there’s a personal struggle, stay the course. By this he didn’t mean don’t change, but rather stay true to what grounds you, stay true to your plan. I was reminded of this because at our pre-retreat, Pastor Bob encouraged us to “Stay Jesus.” In this time of turmoil in the nation and the world, let’s stay Jesus. Now is not the time to deviate from our mission to join in with God’s mission to reconcile all people with Christ. Now is not the time to deviate from our values of authentic worship, intentional relationships, sacrificial service and radical generosity. And as our recent commemoration of the baptism of our Lord reminds us, let’s not deviate from, but double-down on our baptismal promises to:

**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 Christ, and **STRIVE** for justice and peace in all the earth.

John baptized Jesus. When Jesus emerged from the water, he wasn’t changed. We were changed, we are changed, and we will be changed, as long as we Stay Jesus. And just as Jesus did when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, we, too, must renounce Satan and all of Satan’s empty promises.

When we are strongly anchored to our mission, values, and baptismal promises, we will have heightened awareness and clearer insight to see and hear what is emerging in front of our eyes – where God is smiling and where God is crying. We will be more readily able to continue to build trust and reject suspicion. We will be more willing to testify to how we have come to know Jesus and share all we have done having said yes to Jesus in our lives. This is what it means for us to stay our course, to Stay Jesus, with God at the center of all that we do.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE to submit your 2026 Statement of Intention Card



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BOYERTOWN

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS SACRIFICIAL SERVICE RADICAL GENEROSITY

### 2026 Statement of Intention

Believing that stewardship is everything I do after I say yes to God, and in grateful recognition that all my time, talent, and treasure come from God, I gladly join with others in the support of Christ's church.

- I/We plan to participate in a Small Group learning session in 2026.
- I/We would like to participate in ministry service in 2026 (Come to the Table, Potato Project, Operation 143, Christmas Meal, etc.).

I/We plan to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ in 2026.  Weekly  Monthly  Annually

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and tear off this portion,  
retaining as a reminder of your commitment  
to the work of Christ for the year 2026.

I made a commitment of:  
  
*Contribution can be made online through Tithe.ly.  
Connect on our website under 'Give'.*



For anyone who has not yet submitted their 2026 Statement of Intention Card to the church office, you can either cut out the card to your left and mail to the church office (attention: finance office) or place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

We will also be demonstrating how to use our online giving option, 'Tithe.ly', for your weekly, monthly, or annual contributions on **Sunday, February 15**, immediately following the worship service.

We appreciate your participation in documenting your intentions for the 2026 church year!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day ( <i>Special Service</i> )	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
2/1/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b>	Delaney Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Amanda Ehst	Dave Babb	Jason Friz	Jean Machamer	Brianna Rohrbach	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Jennifer Schlegel, Scott Scheiry	Jason Eidle
2/8/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b>	Philip Derr	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Jodi Dykie & Mary Kay Heimbach	Melissa Geary	Jean Machamer	Shannon Omlor	Bonnie Moatz	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Sue & George Hill	Camryn Friz
2/15/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	Abby Torres	Tom Engle, Amanda Ehst	Mary Dierolf & Nancy Edwards	Amy Moyer	Bev Blake	Sarah Eidle	Martha Bentley	Ashley Gheer	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Phil Haddad, Ros Moatz	Abbe Grofe
2/18/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Camryn Friz	<b>NA</b>	Sue Hill	Bev Blake	Sue Hill	Jason Friz	Ros Moatz	Melissa Eidle	Ros & Brian Moatz	Scott Scheiry
2/22/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Lent 1</b>	Delaney Hersperger	George Hill, Jennifer Schlegel	Bonnie Moatz	Jennifer Schlegel	Brian Moatz	Shannon Omlor	Sue Grofe	Brianna Rohrbach	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houp, Josee Ruckenbrod	Jason Eidle
2/25/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Unfailing Light</b>	Philip Derr	Jason Friz	Mary Kay Heimbach	Jason Friz	<b>TBD</b>	Sarah Eidle	<b>NA</b>	Ashley Gheer	Bev & Joe Blake	Camryn Friz
3/1/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Lent 2</b>	Delaney Hersperger	Melissa Eidle, Mel Roth	Amy Moyer	Mel Roth	Missy Endy	Jason Friz	Bonnie Moatz	Myles Omlor	Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Jerry Krause, Ed Schaeffer	Abbe Grofe
3/4/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Unfailing Light</b>	Tatum Friz	Amy Moyer	Mary Kay Heimbach	Amy Moyer	<b>TBD</b>	Shannon Omlor	<b>NA</b>	Melissa Eidle	Bunny & Ron Riffle	Jason Eidle
3/8/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Lent 3</b>	Grant Hersperger	Jen & Jason Friz	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Melissa Geary	Bonnie Moatz	Sarah Eidle	Ros Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Carol Semantis, Susan & Andy Varzally, Terry Wadsworth	Scott Scheiry
3/11/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Unfailing Light</b>	Abby Torres	Jennifer Schlegel	Mary Kay Heimbach	Jennifer Schlegel	<b>TBD</b>	Jason Friz	<b>NA</b>	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Abbe Grofe
3/15/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Lent 4</b>	Philip Derr	Joe & Bev Blake	Jodi Dykie & Nancy Edwards	Bev Blake	Mary Kay Heimbach	Shannon Omlor	Michele Eidle	Ashley Gheer	Ashley & John Gheer, Jen Schlegel, Scott Scheiry	Camryn Friz
3/18/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Unfailing Light</b>	Camryn Friz	Jason Friz	Mary Kay Heimbach	Jason Friz	<b>TBD</b>	Sarah Eidle	<b>NA</b>	Brianna Rohrbach	Sandy & Terry Wade	Scott Scheiry
3/22/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Lent 5</b>	Abby Torres	Michele & Dave Eidle	Melissa Eidle	Amanda Ehst	Tom Engle	Jason Friz	Martha Bentley	Myles Omlor	Sue & George Hill, Barbara Houp, Josee Ruckenbrod	Jason Eidle
3/25/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	<b>Unfailing Light</b>	Tatum Friz	Mel Roth	Mary Kay Heimbach	Mel Roth	<b>TBD</b>	Shannon Omlor	<b>NA</b>	Melissa Eidle	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie	Abbe Grofe
3/29/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	<b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b>	Philip Derr	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Bonnie Moatz	Jennifer Schlegel	<b>TBD (multiple)</b>	Sarah Eidle	Mel Roth	Ashley Gheer	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Bonnie & Rick Moatz, Ros & Brian Moatz	Camryn Friz

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Men's Retreat 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 11:00a Service MAG 4:00p Birthday Party Rental	<b>2</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30p Worship Team	<b>5</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>6</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class	<b>7</b> 9:00a Caring & Correspondence 10:00a Girl Scout Cookie Sale at Redners 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>8</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration "Celebrating Preschool" 10:45a Coffee & Conversation	<b>9</b> 9:30a Preschool Sweetheart Breakfast 10:00a Yoga Class 5:00p Newsletter Deadline 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Jr Optimist Club 7:30p Optimist Club	<b>10</b> 6:30p The Chosen	<b>11</b> Preschool Valentine Party 6:30p Prayer Shawls	<b>12</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>13</b> Preschool Closed 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class	<b>14</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>15</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	<b>16</b> President's Day Office Closed	<b>17</b> 6:00p Building a Better Boyertown 6:30p Finance Team 6:30p Jr Optimist Club	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday Preschool Chapel Time 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 7:00p Worship Celebration	<b>19</b> 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 2:00p Miller-Keystone Blood Drive 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>20</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class 6:00p Girl Scout Retreat begins	<b>21</b> 12:00p Girl Scout Retreat ends 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>22</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School	<b>23</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Jr Optimist Club 7:30p Optimist Club	<b>24</b> 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service 7:45p Congregation Council	<b>26</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>27</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class	<b>28</b> 4:30p Come to the Table

## 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, [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com), and our social media sites.

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Bonnie Bosler	<b>3</b> Marie Adamski Dave Babb	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cody Gheer Constance Gilbert	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Krista Fretz
<b>8</b> Joe Matthews Ruth Weil	<b>9</b> Dave Long	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Owyn Omlor	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Val Gonzalez
<b>15</b> Sandy Wade	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Tom Engle Susan Laubach Brianna Rohrbach
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Melissa Eidle	<b>24</b> Bobbie Eddinger	<b>25</b> Kiersten Kulhamer	<b>26</b> Shirley Miller Sue Schaeffer Bertha Shott	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

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](http://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 January 29, 2026

**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	<a href="mailto:bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org">bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org</a>
Bethany Calderwood, Director of Preschool Ministry	<a href="mailto:bcalderwood@stjohnsboyertown.org">bcalderwood@stjohnsboyertown.org</a>
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Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer	



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.