

# EAGLE MESSENGER



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

MARCH 2026

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP † INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS † SACRIFICIAL SERVICE † RADICAL GENEROSITY

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday, the first Sunday in Lent, we had the opportunity to be blessed in hearing Matthew's Gospel where Jesus is tempted to compromise and to no longer trust God the Father. Jesus resists. Well done, Jesus! In a similar situation I would hope to choose as wisely but I know I am flawed and without the help of God, and the community of believers I'm privileged to have as my support, I'm not sure I would fare so well. Journeying life the way of Jesus, Christ followers committed to maintaining their character and integrity will often say no to what many would perceive to be the opportunity of a lifetime. The willingness to say no is what sets the individual with character apart from the pack. The day will come for all of us when progress, earthly measures of success, and shallow applause will call for a compromise of conviction. One inside voice in you will want to push forward. After all, you've come so far, you deserve it all. The end certainly justified the means. In that moment, the seeming significance of the goal will far out weigh the significance of your conviction, trustworthiness, character, integrity, and honesty. But there is that other voice. Listen to it. Character is the will to do what is right even when it's hard.

Our youth and adults frequently engage bible study and holy conversation on this very topic. Of course it would be a frequent topic, it's all over the scriptures. At St. John's we believe and we teach that having the will to do what's right requires that you determine what's right before the struggle to do what's right ensues. We believe and we teach that one must decide ahead of time what is nonnegotiable as it relates to right and wrong. Those terms aren't always the most helpful since life isn't as black and white as often as we would like it to be and that's my point. Living with character necessitates a series of pre-decisions.

We all know, just as Jesus experienced, the day will come when what we might think is progress seems to call for a compromise of conviction. But there will be another voice as well – a deeper still, small voice. The message will be simple, short, and without explanation: "This is wrong." Against that still, small voice, you will hurl numerous reasons, explanations, and rationalizations. But when you are finished, the undaunted voice inside you will continue to whisper, "It's not right." In community we are strengthened to do the harder thing. We planned for it! You planned for it. You're prepared to do what's right.

On Ash Wednesday, I asked, "What do I want Lent to "do" for me this year?" I want Lent to help me more authentically ignite positive and willing responses to continue our traditional disciplines of fasting, reading scripture, and prayer, and ask that you spend time thanking God for having given this congregation a desire to serve their community in the many ways you do. I believe it's

more than ok to thank God for having ignited that spark and fanning it into the blaze that our community sees when you are doing acts of service with one another. Maybe it's ok and even timely to encourage even more active community engagement. Maybe you could invite someone to join you in attending worship midweek or on Sunday. Maybe you want to extend an invitation to a group of friends or folks you'd like to get to know and share a meal. By joining others and engaging intentional relationships you not only have a chance to expand the question from what you want Lent to do for you, but for us. Maybe someone could organize a group prayer walk through our community, or offer, as we intend to do, a community invitation to gather at St. John's to hear how we can protect ourselves from identity theft and fraud and other activities that are harmful to too many.

I want to share words of gratitude and encouragement with our community leaders who struggle with the never-ending need to raise awareness of their mission and raising enough dollars and people resources to fulfil what they believe needs to be accomplished to benefit our community at large. We all know that one can lead without character – we see it all the time. But character is what makes a leader worth following. Integrity is not necessary if your aspirations are simply persuading people to follow you. We believe and teach a scriptural model of discipleship so that when we are called to a role requiring leadership, we will recruit those who early on decided the kind of person they want to be before they considered what it is they can do. That's the sign of a great leader. I would love the opportunity to gather community representatives for thoughtful conversation that I'll call "deep listening" gatherings to share worries, hopes, and disconnections so that we can be better for each other and with each other as we serve all people.

Again I'll say, the service you as a congregation offer our community has been beyond what many could have imagined. You don't just write checks – you engage and actively participate, deepening that monetary gift through your kindness and hard work - all in a spirit of community and thankfulness to God for the opportunity to serve others and not just help them. Come to the Table – our community meal on Saturday evenings is a huge blessing to others. It is also a meaningful blessing to those whose hands make it happen with smiles and laughter in some of the harshest weather conditions.

By focusing on community-centered, active, and reflective practices, Lent becomes a transformative, shared journey toward Easter. Let the discipline of listening to that still, small voice be a part of your Lenten practice.

Be blessed!  
Pastor Bob



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) 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*.

**Message Schedule**

- February 25** - Temptation; *Tom Engle*
- March 4** - Nicodemus; *Abbe Grofe*
- March 11** - Woman at the Well; *Bonnie Moatz*
- March 18** - Receiving Sight; *Scott Scheiry*
- March 25** - Martha and Mary after Lazarus' Death; *Bethany Calderwood*

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*).

**UPCOMING WORSHIP**

**Sunday, March 8 @ 9:30 am**

**Girl Scout Sunday**

**Handbell Choir**

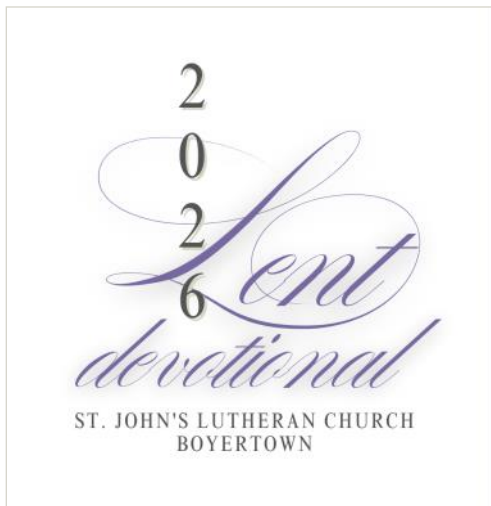
Join us in celebrating Girl Scout Sunday with the troops that meet at St. John's. We welcome the girls into serving with us at worship and playing a special piece on the chimes.

**Sunday, March 25 @ 9:30 am**

**Passion/Palm Sunday**

**Handbell Choir**

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.



THANK YOU  
TO THE  
**34**  
VOLUNTEERS  
THAT SUBMITTED  
WRITINGS FOR OUR  
LENT DEVOTIONAL.

Lent Devotionals have been mailed  
and can be found online!





# FULLY ALIVE

THE STORY OF EASTER

PALM SUNDAY	MARCH 29 9:30 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY	APRIL 2 7:00 PM
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 3 7:00 PM
EASTER	APRIL 5 9:30 AM

STJOHNSBOYERTOWN.ORG

## REFLECTIONS FROM SOUTHERN LIGHTS CONFERENCE

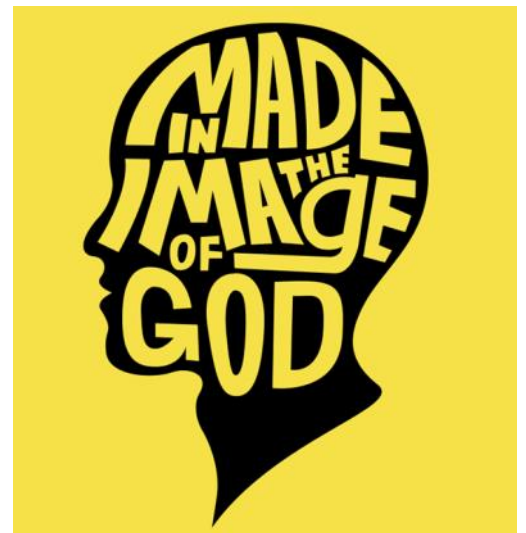
In January, Becky Erb, Jen Friz, Sue Grofe, Pastor Bob Machamer, Shannon Omlor, and Jennifer Schlegel attended the Southern Lights Conference on Saint Simon Island in Georgia. Kim Shively, a friend of Jennifer’s and a friend to our congregation, also attended. There were more than 300 who participated in person, with another 400 online. We heard messages of hope from people who have experienced life on the margins. We listened to purposeful questioning and answering among the hosts and speakers. We were mesmerized by the musical offerings from Ken Medema. And we worshipped authentically our final morning.

Over the next few months, you’ll read messages in the Eagle Messenger from the conference attendees who will write about something specific that resonated with them, and how that resonance is stirring them to action. And we hope you ask us about our experiences growing closer to God and connecting with the wider community of faith through learning, listening, and worshipping together.

This month’s message comes from Jen Friz:

The demographics of the attendees of the Southern Lights Conference might have been what you would expect as those raised in the “cultural center – coming from privilege, secure and stable institutions”. But the conference brought attention to those grown up on the “margins – where life was harder, systems less reliable, and injustice more visible”. There was one message that I heard resonating from the speakers and attendees: *all humankind is created in the image of God*. This group of mostly white, post-middle-aged people expressed their compassion and the pain that they felt for the injustice that they’re observing in the world today. The message was clear, that we are all children of God, created in God’s image and ALL people deserve the care and respect from their neighbors. I’m not sure how one can call themselves a Christian if they think otherwise.

As I left the conference, my emotions and ideas still swirling, I’ve been contemplating how I can not just be supportive of those on the margins, but how I can be an advocate and ally. It takes action to make a difference.





# GOD SEES YOU

By: Bethany Calderwood

February was a busy month in preschool! One February theme was zoo animals, so we spent time learning about animal names, patterns, and habits. We celebrated the preschool with preschool Sunday and opened up our Art Show for church and families. We held a Sweetheart Breakfast, where each child invited a special adult to join them for valentine's food and fun. We decorated valentines for some of the church's homebound members, and we shared valentines with each other as well.

Those little cardboard valentines—did you receive any? Did your kids pass them out? Or maybe you're glad to be out of that stage. But do you remember when they were a big deal? Preschoolers exchanged them here, and my elementary kids at home prepared them for their friends, too.

At home, we had one left in the box after filling out cards for friends and teachers. My kids decided to give it to their bus driver. Does the bus driver need a cardboard rectangle and a blue bouncy ball? Probably not. But what does that say to the bus driver? It says that the children whom you help every day see you and appreciate you. Bus driver, what you do matters. Maybe it made the bus driver smile.

We all need that reminder. I hope someone in your life, someone who benefits from your effort and energy, takes the time to see you and let you know that you matter. But even if they don't--God sees you. During the sermon on the mount, Jesus notes that God sees what is done in secret. Take this article as your heart-covered cardboard rectangle: You are seen, and what you do matters.



*Reminder!*

**DON'T FORGET TO  
SPRING FORWARD  
MARCH 8**

*First Communion*

Is your child ready to receive the Holy sacrament?

If interested, contact Becky at [parishadmin@stjohnsbovertown.org](mailto:parishadmin@stjohnsbovertown.org)

<b>Training</b>	<b>First Holy Communion</b>
Sun, March 29	Thurs, April 2
10:45 am	7:00 pm
Sanctuary	Sanctuary

# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a 2025 Financial Review Meeting	<b>2</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Boyertown Optimist Oratorical Contest 7:30p Girl Scouts Chimes	<b>3</b> 6:30p Worship Team 6:30p Jr Optimist Club	<b>4</b> Oley Cluster 7:00p Unfailing Light Midweek Worship	<b>5</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 7:00p Handbell Choir 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>6</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class	<b>7</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>8</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Coffee & Conversation 11:00a Service MAG 3:00p Bread, Bowl & Bible	<b>9</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 5:00p Newsletter Deadline 6:30p Girl Scouts 6:30p Jr Optimist Club 7:00p Joint Parking Lot Committee 7:30p Optimist Club	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00p Unfailing Light Midweek Worship	<b>12</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbell Choir 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>13</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class 6:00p Council Retreat	<b>14</b> 8:30a Council Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>15</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 3:00p Bread, Bowl & Bible 6:30p Girl Scout Service Unit Leaders	<b>16</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 6:30p Finance Team	<b>18</b> 9:00a Preschool Drop Off Social 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 6:00p Building a Better Boyertown 7:00p Unfailing Light Midweek Worship	<b>19</b> 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 10:00a Operation 143 Delivery 7:00p Handbell Choir 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>20</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study 10:00a Move & Groove Class	<b>21</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>22</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 11:00a MAG Meeting	<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> Preschool Chapel Time 7:00p Unfailing Light Midweek Worship 7:45p Congregation Council	<b>26</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 7:00p Handbell Choir 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
<b>29</b> <b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a First Holy Communion Training	<b>30</b> 10:00a Yoga Class 6:30p Girl Scouts	<b>31</b>				

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day <i>(Special Service)</i>	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
3/1/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 2	Delaney Hersperger	Bev Blake, Melissa Eidle	Amy Moyer	Bev Blake	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	Unfailing Light	Tatum Friz	Amy Moyer	Mary Kay Heimbach	Amy Moyer	TBD	Shannon Omlor	NA	Melissa Eidle	Bunny & Ron Riffle	Jason Eidle
3/8/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 3	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	Unfailing Light	Abby Torres	Jennifer Schlegel	Mary Kay Heimbach	Jennifer Schlegel	TBD	Jason Friz	NA	Myles Omlor	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach	Abbe Grofe
3/15/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 4	Philip Derr	Joe Blake, Mel Roth	Jodi Dykie, Nancy Edwards	Mel Roth	Mary Kay Heimbach	Shannon Omlor	Michele Eidle	Ashley Gheer	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Scott Scheiry, Jennifer Schlegel	Camryn Friz
3/18/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Unfailing Light	Camryn Friz	Jason Friz	Mary Kay Heimbach	Jason Friz	TBD	Sarah Eidle	NA	Brianna Rohrbach	Sandy & Terry Wade	Scott Scheiry
3/22/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Lent 5	Abby Torres	Michele & Dave Eidle	Melissa Eidle	Amanda Ehst	Tom Engle	Jason Friz	Martha Bentley	Myles Omlor	Sue & George Hill, Barbara Houpp, Josee Ruckebrod	Jason Eidle
3/25/2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Unfailing Light	Tatum Friz	Mel Roth	Mary Kay Heimbach	Mel Roth	TBD	Shannon Omlor	NA	Melissa Eidle	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie	Abbe Grofe
3/29/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Passion/Palm Sunday	Philip Derr	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Bonnie Moatz	Jennifer Schlegel	Bonnie Moatz	Sarah Eidle	Mel Roth	Ashley Gheer	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Bonnie & Rick Moatz, Ros & Brian Moatz	Camryn Friz
4/2/2026	Thursday	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday	Tatum Friz	Bev & Joe Blake	Mary Kay Heimbach, Sue Hill	Bev Blake	Amy Moyer	Shannon Omlor	Ros Moatz	Melissa Eidle	Sue & George Hill	Scott Scheiry
4/3/2026	Friday	7:00 PM	Good Friday	NA	NA		Jason Friz	TBD	Shannon Omlor	Bonnie Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Ros & Brian Moatz	Jason Eidle
4/5/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Easter	Philip Derr	Shannon Omlor, Jennifer Schlegel	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jennifer Schlegel	Cathy Krause	Jason Friz	Jean Machamer	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake, Becky & Barry Erb, Bunny & Ron Riffle	Abbe Grofe
4/12/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Second Sunday of Easter	Camryn Friz	Jen & Jason Friz	Bonnie Moatz	Amy Moyer	Dave Long	Justin Jones	Tom Engle	Ashley Gheer	Jerry Krause, Darrin Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Ed Schaeffer	Camryn Friz
4/19/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Third Sunday of Easter	Abby Torres	Angie Berkosky, Melissa Eidle	Dorothy Breitreutz	Amanda Ehst	Michele Eidle	Sarah Eidle	Susan & Andy Varzally	Melissa Eidle	Carol & Larry Angstadt, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Scott Scheiry
4/26/2026	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Delaney Hersperger	Abbe Grofe, Amy Moyer	Melissa Eidle	Melissa Geary	Phyllis Kershner	Shannon Omlor	Sue Grofe	Brianna Rohrbach	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houpp, Josee Ruckebrod	Jason Eidle

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sam Kulp	<b>2</b> Jerry Krause	<b>3</b> Perry Guinther	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Linda Rohrbach	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Rob Brile George Hill	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Jackson Haelig Myles Omlor	<b>13</b> Barbara Houp	<b>14</b> Phil Haddad Gracie Martin
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Jessica Brunner	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Sarah White	<b>20</b> Melanie Conrad Rodney Henry	<b>21</b> Kurt Stork
<b>22</b> Kenneth Billger Richard Brown Ronald Houck	<b>23</b> Samuel Eidle Vicki Henry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Brian Christman Paula Kriebel
<b>29</b> Karen Pollock	<b>30</b> Joseph Cremi Ronald Davidheiser	<b>31</b>				



# 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 February 24, 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

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

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