

June 29, 2025 | 9:30 am
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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 resumes in September and is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade.

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

Acolyte	Grant Hersperger	Musicians	Sarah Everingham, piano
Altar Assistants	Bev & Joe Blake		Madison Robb, vocals
Altar Guild	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Prayers	Susan & Andy Varzally
Assisting Minister	Bev Blake	Sound	Ashley Gheer
Lector	Phyllis Kershner	Video	Jason Eidle
Media	Justin Jones	Ushers	Lauren Jones, Ros Moatz, Bill Rohrbach, Scott Scheiry

**Flowers given in memory of Margie and Robert Eschelman
for their wedding anniversary by sister, Susan Allmendinger.**

Third Sunday after Pentecost



We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

PRELUDE

VIDEO

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may stand.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

Death and life are used metaphorically in this hymn. Death represents a non-spiritual mindset and life represents a routine which follows God's commandments. Once we devote ourselves fully to Christ, then we learn the true meaning, depth, and holiness of His love.



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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

SECOND READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the 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

Luke 9:51-62

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

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When

his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

Reverend David Rowe

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

No matter where we are or what we are doing, God is always our light. As we have been hearing, many hymns provide the same symbolism of God as believers' lights. We turn to light naturally as humans to see more clearly and to be guided, just as we can turn to the Lord for guidance, assurance, love, and support.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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.

The congregation may kneel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING MUSIC

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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

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

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table, and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

This hymn is a call and response between God and people willing to follow Him. The Lord will lead us if we fully open our hearts and minds to Him. He asks, "Whom shall I send?" and we respond with determination and willingness to love all as God loves us.



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
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MONDAY, JUNE 30

TUESDAY, JULY 1

6:30 PM	The Chosen Small Group	Conference Room
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Oley Cluster

6:30 PM	Worship Team	Conference Room
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THURSDAY, JULY 3

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
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6:30 PM	ScriptureDoodle Small Group	Conference Room
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8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 98
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FRIDAY, JULY 4 – Independence Day

Office Closed

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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SATURDAY, JULY 5

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
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SUNDAY, JULY 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
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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!



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.

Pastor Bob Machamer

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Kay Christman, Finance Team

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