

August 24, 2025 | 9:30 am  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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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 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

<b>Acolyte</b>	Abby Torres	<b>Media</b>	Jason Friz
<b>Altar Assistants</b>	Tom Engle, Melissa Geary	<b>Prayers</b>	Martha Bentley
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Kay Heimbach, Heather Murray	<b>Sound</b>	Ashley Gheer
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Melissa Geary	<b>Video</b>	Camryn Friz
<b>Lector</b>	Missy Endy		
<b>Musicians</b>	Molly Herman (vocals); Chris Mervine (organ/piano); Centre Park Flutes		
<b>Ushers</b>	Jodi Dykie, Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Jennifer Schlegel		

**Flowers given in loving memory of our parents by Bill and Elaine Smith.**



## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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### PRELUDE

*This morning, we welcome Centre Park Flutes:  
Cynthia Miller-Aungst, Virginia Schulze-Johnson, Donnasue Thompson, Cynthia Vong*

### 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.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

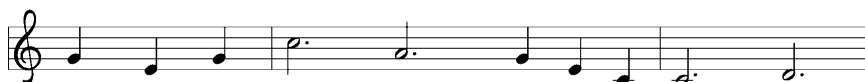
*A new day means renewal, fresh beginnings, and hope for what is to come. It is easy to take the simple joys of life for granted, but God reminds us that everything, no matter how large or small, is a gift. The morning of new creation is one of the most significant examples of renewal; this is a day that we can show our gratitude for through prayer.*



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

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.

**O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, 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

### Isaiah 58:9b-14

*God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. <sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; <sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

## SECOND READING

## Hebrews 12:18-29

*Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. <sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

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

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.*

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand

up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**

## **BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING**

Loving God, thank you for new beginnings, for the new school year, and for the opportunity to learn and to grow. For all students returning to school, grant them the courage, the wisdom, and the curiosity that they will need as they discover new things about You, your world and about themselves.

God of wisdom, thank you for the gift of teachers and educators. May they be filled with the desire to care for and nurture our children. As stressful situations arise, may they trust in you for answers, reminding them that you are the God who knows our every need. Above all, may they know how their dedication to their profession impacts the generations of children who are our future.

Finally, Lord, help our parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members to be beacons of your light and your love, as godly examples for our children. Above all, help us to raise up our children so that they might know and love you.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)

ELW 886

*This hymn describes the many ways our lives can be enhanced by believing in the presence of Jesus and His ultimate sacrifice for us. As believers, we come together in affirming our faith through our actions to others. We are tasked to spread the good news of the Lord to others and join as a community in Christ.*



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



- the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## 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:*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*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

### Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

*This hymn acts as a departure from service. It is a signal for us to go out into the world and live by God's faith and love. We are called to go out and be witnesses to the world.*



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
 Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

## 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



**It's harvest time!**

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

Supplying  
Local  
Food Banks!



REGISTER ONLINE

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
11:30 AM	End of Summer Celebration	Earl Township Park

### MONDAY, AUGUST 25

9:00 AM	First Aid/CPR Training	Lower Level
7:30 PM	Optimist Club of Boyertown	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

1:00 PM	Joyful Sisters of Service	Conference Room
6:30 PM	Building a Better Boyertown	Lower Level

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

6:30 PM	Congregation Council	Conference Room
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### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

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

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Operation 143 Food Drive

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!



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