

February 1, 2026 | 9:30 am

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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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

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

AUTHENTIC  
WORSHIP



INTENTIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS



SACRIFICIAL  
SERVICE



RADICAL  
GENEROSITY



## 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

Acolyte	Delaney Hersperger	Media	Shannon Omlor
Altar Assistants	Michele & Dave Eidle	Musicians	Chris Mervine, Madison Robb
Altar Guild	Dorothy Breitkreutz	Prayer	Jean Machamer
Assisting Minister	Amanda Ehst	Sound	Brianna Rohrbach
Lector	Bonnie Moatz	Video	Jason Eidle
Ushers	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Jennifer Schlegel, Scott Scheiry		

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

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### PRELUDE

### VIDEO

### WELCOME

*The congregation may stand.*

### CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN****Listen, God Is Calling****ELW 513**

*This hymn is about recognizing and responding to God's persistent and loving invitations to faith and service. The words draw stories from the bible such as Samuel and Isaiah who were called to use their unique gifts for good in the world.*

*Refrain*

Leader All

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give-ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
1 Je - sus gave his man-date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
that he came to save us and set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
walk-ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, 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. **Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

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

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the

earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” <sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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**

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

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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**

**Let Streams of Living Justice**

**ELW 710**

*We seek justice from God. We pray for people's needs to be met with the love and grace of our Lord. Using a metaphor of justice as flowing water, we seek nourishment that is transformative and powerful for us and for all.*

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great wea - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whits, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1989 William Whits.

## 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**  
*Sung through twice.*

**ELW 752**



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

Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*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:*

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

*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 will 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**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

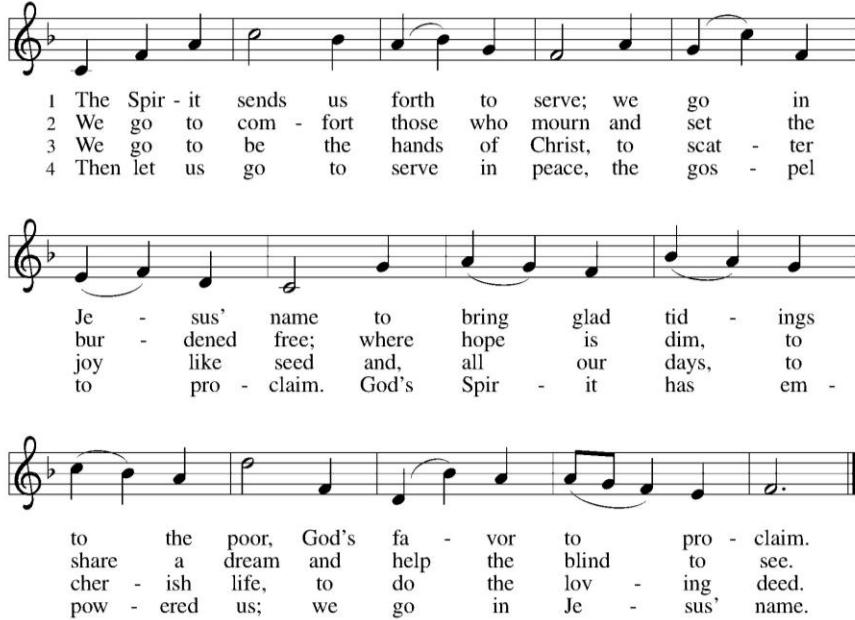
May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

*This hymn focuses on mission and service. As believers in Christ, we are empowered to do His will and act as His hands. We care for ones in need and proclaim the gospel to everyone.*



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **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

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### Men's Retreat

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Parish House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
11:00 AM	Service MAG	Conference Room
4:00 PM	Birthday Party Rental	Fellowship Hall

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:00 AM	Yoga Class	Room 205
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:30 PM	Worship Team	Conference Room
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## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
10:00 AM	Operation 143 Delivery	Off-Site
7:00 PM	Handbells	Handbell Room
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 98

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
10:00 AM	Move & Groove Class	Room 205

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
9:00 AM	Caring & Correspondence	Lower Level

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration, Celebrating Preschool	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Parish House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
10:45 AM	Coffee & Conversation	Lower Level

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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

[bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org)

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Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer



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