

AUGUST 18, 2024 | 9:30 am  
THIRTEENTH 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. Children's Sunday Church School is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade and is held during the school year (beginning September 15). Registration is open online.

## 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!

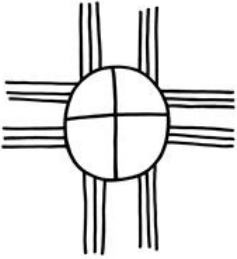


## SERVING IN WORSHIP

<b>Acolyte</b>	Camryn Friz	<b>Media</b>	Jason Friz
<b>Altar Assistants</b>	Melissa Eidle, Jen Schlegel	<b>Musician</b>	Sam Kulp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Dorothy Breitreutz	<b>Prayers</b>	Karen Pollock, Melissa Geary
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lauren Jones	<b>Sound</b>	Brianna Rohrbach
<b>Lector</b>	Brian Moatz	<b>Video</b>	Abbe Grofe
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Rohrbach, Ben Rohrbach, Lauren Jones, Phil Haddad		

**Flowers given in loving memory of my wife, Janet, by Terry Wadsworth.**

# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

---

## PRELUDE

Prelude on Hyfrydol

Rowland H. Prichard  
arr. Donna Hanna

Come, Let Us Eat

Billemia Kwillia  
arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Handbells, under the direction of Jennifer Schlegel:*

*Mary Dierolf, Amanda Ehst, Melissa Eidle, Tom Engle, Sarah Everingham (percussion), Melissa Geary, Abbe Grofe, Sue Grofe, Phyllis Kershner, Amy Moyer, Karen Pollock, Madison Robb*

## VIDEO

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The congregation may stand.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.  
**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**ELW 618**



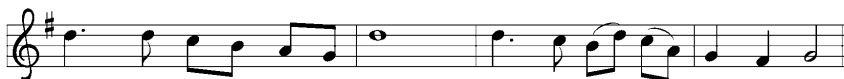
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

**Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Change My Heart, O God

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), and is marked 'Refrain'. The lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and is marked 'End'. The lyrics 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' are written below. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes and is marked with a '3' above the notes. The lyrics 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' are written below. The fourth staff also features a triplet and is marked 'Refrain'. The lyrics 'Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.' are written below.

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

### Proverbs 9:1-6

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, <sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says, <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

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

### SECOND READING

### Ephesians 5:15-20

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do

not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**

**John 6:51-58**

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

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**

*The congregation may stand.*

**MUSIC SELECTION**

**Build My Life**

**Pat Barrett**

Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, oh, we live for You

Jesus, the Name above every other name  
Jesus, the only One who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus, the Name above every other name  
Jesus, the only One who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me

And I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
And I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken  
And I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
And I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken



Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon You  
Lead me in Your love

## **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**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.*

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

## **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. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**OFFERING MUSIC**

**This Little Light of Mine**

**ELW 677**

*Chime Cherubs, under the direction of Madison Robb:*

*Philip Derr, Tatum Friz, Delaney Hersperger, Grant Hersperger*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*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 do not wish 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**

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **MUSIC SELECTION**

**Come as You Are**

**David Crowder**

Come out of sadness  
From wherever you've been  
Come broken hearted  
Let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy  
Oh, sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table  
Come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't cure

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
Lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Fall in his arms  
Come as you are  
There's joy for the mourning  
Oh, sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame

All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh, wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

### Festive Celebration

Kevin McChesney

*Handbells, under the direction of Madison Robb:*

*Amanda Ehst, Jaden Ehst, Melissa Geary, Ashley Gheer, Abbe Grofe,  
Amy Moyer, Jennifer Schlegel*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23029.  
Hymns and service music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709485.



All Ages  
Welcome!

# LIFT

*Living in Faith Together*



Wednesday, September 11, 18, 25



6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (*dinner provided*)



Fellowship Hall  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown

LIFT is designed to foster intergenerational community by bringing generations together around tables for four activities each week:

### Sharing Food

(breaking bread together)

### Enjoying Fellowship

(playing together)

### Worshipping

(praying together)

### Studying the Bible

(studying God's word together)

**REGISTER ONLINE**



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

---

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration, 'Back to School Blessing'	Sanctuary
10:45 AM	Love Does	Conference Room

### MONDAY, AUGUST 19

6:30 PM	Preschool MAG	Lower Level
---------	---------------	-------------

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

6:30 PM	Finance Team	Office
6:30 PM	The Power of Your Words	Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

9:30 AM	Pottstown Soup Kitchen	Pottstown Salvation Army
6:30 PM	Congregation Council	Conference Room

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
6:30 PM	ScriptureDoodle	Conference Room
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 98

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
---------	-------------------------------	----------------------

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
---------	-------------------	-----------------------------

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
10:45 AM	Love Does	Conference Room

---

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

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

Kay Christman, Finance Team

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

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

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

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

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

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

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

Madison Robb, Intern

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

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

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

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

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



45 N. Reading Avenue | Boyertown, PA 19512

610.369.1024 | fax 610.369.1463

[stjohnsboyertown.org](http://stjohnsboyertown.org)

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