

AUGUST 25, 2024 | 9:30 am  
FOURTEENTH 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

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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>	Philip Derr	<b>Media</b>	Sarah Eidle
<b>Altar Assistants</b>	Bonnie Moatz, Becky Scheiry	<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Mervine, Madison Robb
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Melissa Eidle	<b>Prayers</b>	Nathan Wanish
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mel Roth	<b>Sound</b>	Melissa Eidle
<b>Lector</b>	Amy Moyer	<b>Video</b>	Scott Scheiry
<b>Ushers</b>	Martha Bentley, Joanne Dykie, Barbara Houpp, Nathan Wanish		



## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We

pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

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### PRELUDE

### 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.**



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Change My Heart, O God

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a 'Refrain' label above the first measure. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.' The second line of music ends with an 'End' label. The lyrics for the second line are: 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' The third line of music features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The lyrics are: 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' The fourth line of music also features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and ends with a 'Refrain' label. The lyrics are: '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

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship.*

*Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve,

whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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

## **SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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 6:56-69

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

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

[Jesus said,] <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." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." <sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

## Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW 492



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dian, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain: *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.*

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

## **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.**



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**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 8 @ 1:00 pm**  
Becker's St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
265 Maidencreek Rd, Fleetwood

REGISTER ONLINE



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

REGISTER ONLINE



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)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 PM	Optimist Club of Boyertown	Conference Room
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### TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

7:00 PM	State Theatre Board	Conference Room
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### THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

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

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
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### SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot
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### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – Fifteenth 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!



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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

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