

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

**Main Office:** 717-248-8780 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:00AM-4:00 PM Fri. 8-Noon  
stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

**Office Hours:** Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon \*please call ahead.

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**Director of Music/Organist:** Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

[www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA](http://www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA)

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**Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:00AM ✦ *Third Sunday after Epiphany/Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

**WELCOME** to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person. We are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers and care for those in Need.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is served by a 2-line procession down the center aisle. We will celebrate with bread, wine, or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

**GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S** Offering plates are located at each entrance. If you prefer to give electronically, visit our website, and click on the **E-Giving Tab**. Use your existing login information. For new users, search for St John's Lutheran Church Lewistown. Information on **E-Giving** is available on the SJLC resource table. Thank you for your continued support.

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR**, we would like to get to know you. Please fill out a visitor's card from the pew rack and place it on the offering plate at the entrances. May Christ's spirit be with each and every one of us in our congregational life and faith journey.

**LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOKLETS** are available, please see a door greeter.

## **SERVING TODAY**

*Pastor* – Rev. Allen Hulslander

*Acolytes* – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Gloria Stewart, Jennie McCardle, Mariah King

*Cantor* – Mina Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Scott Price, Jenna Dudukovich, Terri Limes

*Crucifer* – Scott Price

*Lay Reader* – Sue Shawver

*Ushers* – Ed Stewart – head usher, Gloria Stewart, Pam Tressler

*Media & Production* – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler, and Mary Barr

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Franz Joseph Haydn, Arr. Melody Bober  
2011 Alfred Music Pub. Co., Inc.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

*Please stand as you are able. Congregational responses are in **Bold**.  
Red Hymnal (ELW) will be used for parts of the service.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for, in the beginning, by your Word, you created the world, calling forth life, in which you took delight.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of Christ Jesus and our new life in him.

To you be given honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Processional Hymn

**ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"**

## GREETING

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.**

## Kyrie

**ELW page #138 Setting 3**

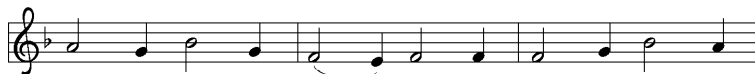
## Canticle of Praise (*Congregation*)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Special Music

“Come Alive” Lauren Daigle and Michael Farren 2012 Wordspring Music, LLC

**Mina Phillips - vocal**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE** *All children are invited forward.*

## WORD

### First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

## **Psalm: Psalm 19**

*The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)*

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> **One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup> **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup> **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;**

**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in  
your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with

it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Please stand as you are able.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

**Gospel: Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

After the reading ...

The Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Allen**

### **Apostles' Creed**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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 into hell.  
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.**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions ends with: “God of Grace”

And the Congregational response is:

“hear our prayer”

## SHARING of GOD’S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words. “*Peace be with You.*”

“**And also with you.**”

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,  
Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Martha  
Liebegott, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, and the Call Committee.

\*To have someone added to the  
Prayer Guide-with their permission-  
please contact the church office.

**MEAL** *Please continue to stand.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## COMMUNION PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we....and  
join their unending hymn (sung):

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW pg. #144 Setting 3**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues:*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, .....

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the  
Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, .....We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among.....Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One.....one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Our Father, which 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### COMMUNION

All who are baptized are invited to come forward. Children, if not already communing, may be brought forward for a blessing from the Pastor. Please hold both hands out to receive the bread, then choose a cup from the Acolyte. Please dispose of your communion cup in the nearby waste basket.

## **Communion Music**

“Wonderful Words of Life” Philip P. Bliss, Arr. Carol Tornquist, 2009 Alfred Music Pub. Co., Inc.

“The Solid Rock” William B. Bradbury, Arr. Joel Raney 2021 Hope Pub. Co.

“Trust and Obey” with Robert Schumann’s “Traumerei” Daniel B. Towner, Arr. Gail Smith 2023 Pilot Point Music

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## ***SENDING***

### **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

**ELW #551 “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “O Zion, Haste” (#668 in our Hymnal)**

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### **DEDICATIONS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Darla Reish-Shawver in memory of Helen Hostetler, son Bud and wife, Lewistown.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Nikki and Mark Hiday in honor of loved ones.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in honor of her son Gib Fisher's birthday by Norma Fisher.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by The Treaster Family in memory of loved ones.

### **ST. JOHN'S NEWS**

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION** meeting of St. John's Evangelical Church is **today** immediately after worship. Everyone is invited to a brunch following the meeting celebrating your faithfulness and the successful completion of the Under One Roof capital funds campaign.

**THE MIFFLIN COUNTY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION** monthly meeting will be conducted on Thursday January 30th at 6pm. Mifflin County Sheriff James Drayer will be the featured Guest Speaker and will provide a dynamic presentation regarding the Sheriff's Office in Mifflin County. Please plan to attend the scheduled Mifflin County Veterans Organization Meeting for a night of Military Camaraderie, Christian Fellowship, great presentation and Light Refreshments. The Mifflin County Veterans Organization has grown tremendously with average meeting attendance over 70 while supporting area Veterans and the Community. Thanks to the St. John's Lutheran Church and Church Council plus the Barnabas Brothers for supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Thank You Respectfully, Steve Burk

**MEET & EAT** will be a pizza game day on **Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup>** at SJLC in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 11:30am so we know how much pizza to order to eat at 12-Noon. All women of the church are welcome to come and have fun and fellowship.

**OPEN DATES** There are 2 open dates to sponsor bulletins (**August 24<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>**). The sign-up sheet is on the office window.

**DESIGNATED OFFERINGS** 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Special Offering will go towards the Central Pa. World Hunger 2025 Meat Canning Project.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

**SOLES 4 SOULS** A reminder. A box is in the lobby for any shoe donations.

**GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL** (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables “come alive.” Godly Play dates are as follows: 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **2025** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

**LOST & FOUND** there is a lost and found box in the lobby on the shelf above the coat rack. Please check for any items that you may be missing.

**WEATHER ALERT** If the Mifflin County School District is delayed, closed, or closing due to snow and ice, the SJLC Office and all activities in the church facility will be postponed or cancelled.

### COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

**THE SJLC COUNCIL** reorganization meeting is on Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30pm.

**PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP** Needs sheets (slightly used ok). Deliver to quilt room.

**MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD** items for **January/February** are tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, & tea bags.

## Worship SCHEDULE

February 2 [Presentation of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
February 9 [Fifth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am, Worship 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play  
February 16 [Sixth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am, Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
February 23 [Seventh Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
March 2 [Transfiguration of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

**Meetings (Please see above for details)**

Sun. 1/26 Congregational Meeting following worship today.

Mon. 1/27 Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Tue. 02/04 Meet & Eat luncheon at SJLC Fellowship Hall. Meet at 11:30am

**Reminders for February**

**Acolytes** – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Shaneen Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Ray, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

**Crucifer** – Dave Ray

**Ushers** – Tom Beaver – head usher, Norma Fisher, Hillary Worley

**Money Counters** – Terri Limes, Debbie Kling

**Lay Lectors**

**2 Josie Baughman**

**9 Youth**

**16 Jenna Dudukovich**

**23 Tom Beaver**

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.*