

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

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

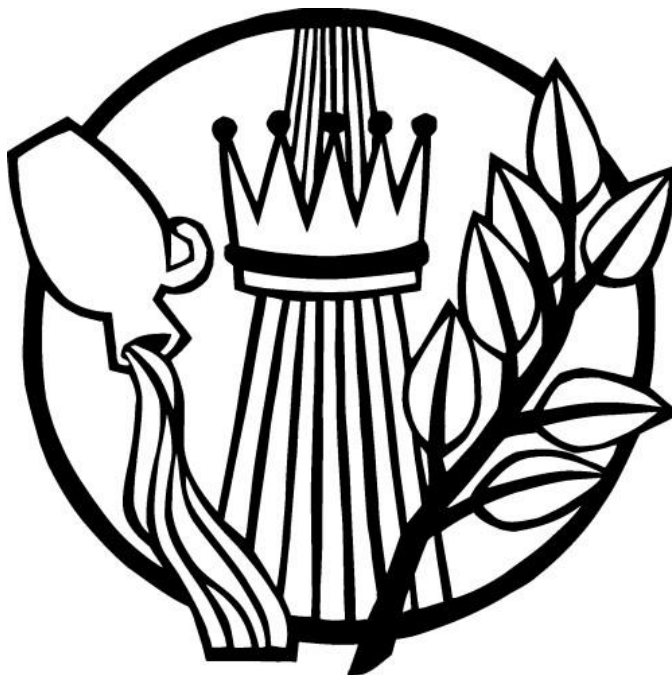
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA

Sunday, September 15th, 2024, 9:00 AM *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting3*



INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago, we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so, we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

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 Huslander

Ushers – Steve Burk, (head usher), Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Lay Lector – Hillary Worley

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Dave Phillips, Hillary Worley

Crucifer – Justice Mills

Acolytes – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Ann Hetrick, Nancy Craig, Becky Yeater

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Joseph Barnby, arr. Carol Tornquist, 2009 Alfred Music

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.*

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #774 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

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

This is the Feast

ELW page #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Special Music

“You Raise Me Up” Rolf Lovland and Brendan Graham, 2003 Universal Music Pub.

Chancel Choir with solo – Dave Phillips

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵ Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶ **The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷ Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸ **For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹ I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

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

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

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 end with: "*Hear Us, O God*"

And the Congregational response is:

"your mercy is great"

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,
Tracy Loucks, Jack Stull, Toby
Sweigart, Dave Borland, Larry
Niemond, Martha Liebegott and the
Call Committee.

*To have someone added to the
Prayer Guide-with their permission-

SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words. "*Peace be with You.*"

"And also with you."

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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed...
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit...

by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (SUNG) Inside back cover of Hymnal.

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 debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

INVITATION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, and be filled.



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

“Nothing But the Blood of Jesus” Robert Lowry

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” Thomas J. Williams

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” Adoniram J. Gordon

(All 3 songs Arr. Carol Tornquist)

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

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #660 “Lift High the Cross”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” (#667 in our Hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Edward Aurand in honor of loved ones.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Paula and Pastor Charlie Hershberger to the Glory of God and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of her parents Joe and Joyce Bossinger presented by Kathy Limes.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Kathy Limes in memory of Jean Stuck.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

NEWSLETTER The deadline for the October newsletter is today September 15th. Please submit information to the SJLC office.

IMPORTANT! Beginning **Friday September 20th** until **Friday September 27th** there will be **NO HEAT OR AIR CONDITIONING** in the office, kitchen or fellowship hall. The HVAC units are being replaced.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS breakfast meetings resume on Saturday September 21st, at 8am in the Church Fellowship Hall. All Men of the Church are cordially invited to attend and share a morning of Christian Fellowship with a King's Breakfast. We are honored to have Pastor Allen as our scheduled Guest Speaker and Pastor Allen will discuss the Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church . Please plan to attend and enjoy the morning of Christian Fellowship.

BARNABAS BROTHERS HOAGIE SALE is Friday September 27th, 2024. Pick-up orders 9:00am or scheduled delivery at the church Fellowship Hall. All orders are due Sunday September 22nd, 2024. Any questions please call Steve Burk at (717) 250-7410.

THE LUMINA CENTER is having a yard sale on Friday September 27th, 2024, from 9:00am until 6:00pm. If you would like to donate, please see Mary Barr.

SCHOOL KITS AND PERSONAL CARE KITS The crates for these kits have been in the Fellowship Hall during August. Our last Sunday to accept them is September 29th, 2024.

CHANGE OF DAY Meet & Eat will be changing the **day from Tuesday to Wednesday** in October. On **Wednesday October 2nd** the ladies will journey to the **Hublersburg Inn** (a 46-minute drive) in Hublersburg Pa. for luncheon. Please see Jennie for more information.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN of the ELCA are asking your help with a **CHRISTMAS AT SEA** project of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. This is how we can share Christmas with crew members on container ships who can't be home for Christmas. Satchels are provided for you to fill with 1 sweatshirt, 1 T-shirt, 3 pair of socks, 1 winter cap, 1 of the following: can of nuts, a large bar of chocolate or a healthy snack bar and a Holiday or Christmas card from you. Satchels and other information about this project are on the reference table in the foyer near the church office. If you take a satchel to fill, please add your name to the list next to the **CHRISTMAS AT SEA** box. When filled, place the satchel back in the box by **October 7, 2024**. The following Sunday they will be blessed by Pastor Allen, taken to the Synod Office, and then delivered to the New York Seafarer's office for Christmas distribution to the crew on container ships. Please contact Paula Hershberger or Joy Hulslander if you have any questions.

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you wish to change your envelope type (weekly or monthly) or you give online and prefer a special offerings envelope, please notify Sue Shawver by **October 13th, 2024**. Thank you.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 10/13, 11/10, 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

THE LUMINA CENTER MINISTRIES is having a raising awareness benefit Shining Jesus' light across Mifflin County on Sunday October 13th, 2024, at 6:00pm. The benefit will take place at the Lewistown Alliance Church on Juniata Terrace. Please see Mary Barr for more information.

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

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 4th Quarter Special Offering will go towards Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

LUMINA CENTER The new **2024/2025** 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.

UPDATES The church office is working on updating the congregation demographic records. If you have moved, changed your phone number or if you have become a new member in the last 2 years, please pick up a demographic sheet located on the resource table in the lobby.

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.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

PROPERTY COMMITTEE meeting is on Tuesday September 17th, 2024, at 10:00am

THE SJLC COUNCIL meeting is on Monday September 23rd at 6:30pm.

HAM SANDWICH SALE is on the second Friday of every month at SJLC. Money is due the Monday before.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for **September/October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk, and powdered milk.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

September 22 [Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

September 29 [Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 6 [Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
October 13 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play
October 20 [Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

09/17 Tue. Property Committee meeting at 10:00am.
09/18, 09/25 Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
09/23 Mon. SJLC Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips
Altar Guild Volunteers – Ann Hetrick, Nancy Craig, Becky Yeater
Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Dave Phillips, Hillary Worley
Crucifer – Justice Mills
Ushers – Steve Burk – head usher, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter
Money Counters – Robyn Mertz, Genevive McCardle
Lay Lectors
September 22 – Adele Craig
September 29 – Jim Rosenberry

Reminders for October

Acolytes – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly
Altar Guild Volunteers – Robyn Mertz, Betty Weaver, Mary Barr, Linda Goss
Communion Assistants – Glen Hetrick, Sue Shawver, Terri Limes – book bearer
Crucifer – Glen Hetrick
Ushers – Scott Welham – head usher, Robyn Mertz, Deb Kling
Money Counters – Barry Stuck, Sue Phillips
Lay Lectors
October 6 – Tom Beaver
October 13 – Children
October 20 – Joyce Tanner
October 27 – Scott Welham

Next Sunday's Readings: *Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13-4:3,7-8a, Mark 9:30-37*