

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, October 4th, 2026, 9:00AM *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life 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 – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Betty Weaver, Janet Deamer

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman

Crucifer – Ed Deamer

Lay Lector – Kim Crone

Ushers – Scott Welham – head, Dallas Tanner, Joyce Tanner

Media & Production – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler, Annette Rager

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "God the Omnipotent!" Alexis T. Lvov. Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2003 Hal Leonard Co.

WELCOME AND 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 pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the
promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #803 “When I Survey the Wonderful Cross”

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 pg. #138 Setting3

This Is the Feast

ELW pg. #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"As We Gather at Your Table"

Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Lloyd Larson, 2008 Hope Pub. Co.

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

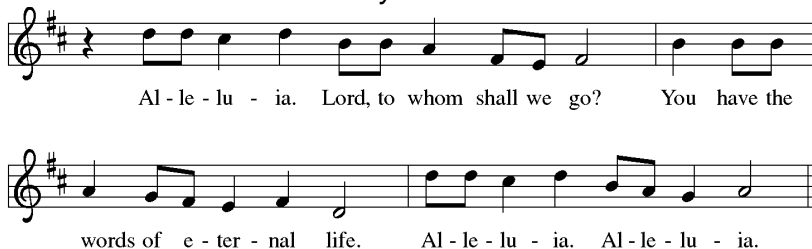
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 Matthew the 22nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

After the reading ...

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Dave Ray

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 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.**

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, Larry Niemond, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer, Steve Yohn, Patti Niemond, the Rankin family and the Call Committee.

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

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 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 creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our
neighbors, today 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 should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus
Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious
resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of
angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

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: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

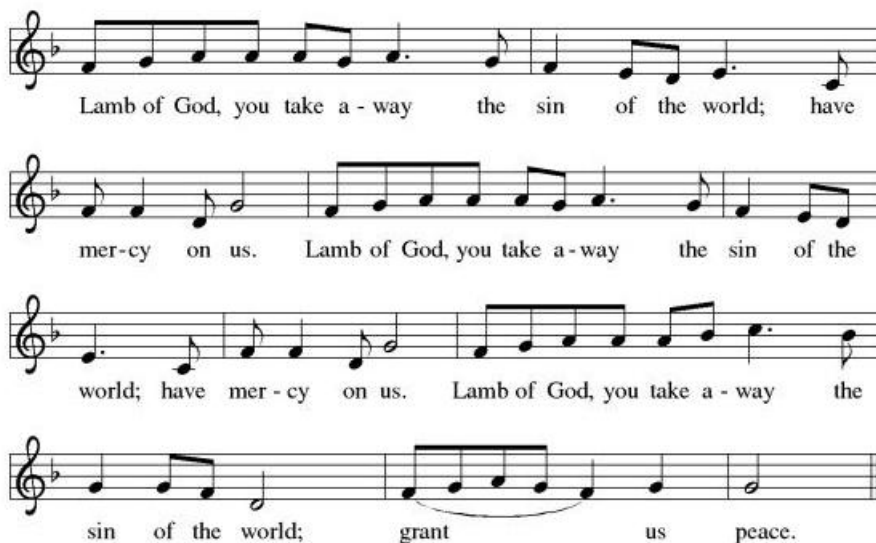
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our 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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!



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

“Thy Word” Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, Arr. Mark Hayes, 1984 MEADOWGREEN MUSIC CO.

“O How He Loves You and Me” Kurt Kaiser, 2000 Word Music Inc.

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” (In the setting of Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata”) Thomas J. Williams, Arr. Gail Smith, 1995 Lillenas Pub. Co.

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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #595 “Jesus Loves Me”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” (#335 in our hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. **NOTICE: Audio/Video recording** When you enter a St. John's Evangelical Lutheran worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Please see notes at entrances for further details. Live-Streaming will continue as needed- if you are behind camera, you will not be on camera.*

DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Adele Craig in memory of Gerald Dumm, Dorothy Craig, Nickolas Stuck, and Avery Craig.

THIS WEEK'S BASKET is presented by the Purcell family in memory of Daisy and Bob Barber.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Sue Phillips in honor of her grandchildren Mina, Jameson, Dorian and Leif. Love “Nana”

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of their grandchildren Hannah, Tysen and Jasen given by Lila and Larry Schaaf.

THE COMMUNION WINE is given by Lila and Larry Schaff in memory of their granddaughter Madisen.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

BLANKET SUNDAY is **today October 4th**. The Blanket Sunday envelopes on the tables in the Sanctuary with the offering plates.

PIECEMAKERS would like to thank the congregation for their donations of sheets and fabric. This year they made **87 quilts** for World Relief, 3 adult quilts and 2 youth quilts for the Homeless Shelter, and 7 baby quilts for the Crossroads Pregnancy Center.

TRIVIA QUESTION How many volunteers does it take to prepare for and assist with worship every Sunday? If you guessed **14 to 16 volunteers**, you are correct. Our volunteers for every **Sunday** worship service are as follows: **Media** (sound system, camera and live streaming) - 2 to 3 volunteers, **Altar Guild** - 2 to 3 volunteers, **Acolytes** - 2 volunteers, **Communion Assistant** - 2 volunteers, **Crucifer** - 1 volunteer, **Lay Lector** - 1 volunteer, **Ushers** - 3 volunteers and **Cantor** - 1 volunteer. The support these volunteers provide is invaluable to Pastor Allen and the congregation. When Stewardship Forms are available this Fall, please consider volunteering. If you have any questions about what's involved, please see me. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work." Sue Shawver- Worship and Music Committee.

MEET & EAT ladies' luncheon is **Tuesday, October 6th** at The China Garden Buffet on Electric Ave. at 12:00 – Noon. All ladies are welcome.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS will resume benefit hoagie sales on **Friday, October 9th**. The price has increased to **\$6.00 each** in an effort to support St. John's Lutheran Church, congregational members, community members and various agencies, groups and organizations. Please see the Hoagie Flyers posted throughout the church. There is also an order form on the office window. Hoagie **orders** are due **today Sunday, October 4th**. We appreciate the Congregation's support as the Barnabas Brothers are dedicated to helping our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. God's Work Our Hands.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and the Barnabas Brothers will proudly celebrate and honor Pastor Hulslander and Pastor Hershberger on **Sunday, October 11th** in recognition of Pastor & Clergy Appreciation Day. Please plan on attending a **fellowship luncheon** on **Sunday, October 11th** after service to celebrate Pastor & Clergy Appreciation Day. The Barnabas Brothers will proudly provide Giant chicken, cake & beverages. The congregation is respectfully requested to bring a side dish, dessert or other food item to share at this special celebration fellowship. Our Lord and Savior has blessed St. John's Lutheran Church with the Ministry of Pastor Hulslander and Pastor Hershberger. Please plan on attending the fellowship and sharing your favorite casserole and/or dessert.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS will have a scheduled breakfast meeting on **Saturday, October 17th** at 8am in the church fellowship hall. Guest Speakers will be Representatives from the Dream Center a Christian Center in Burnham. Please plan to attend a morning of Christian Fellowship, dynamic speakers, and King's Breakfast.

CHRISTMAS-AT SEA SACHELS - We are very pleased to announce that to date we have 35 seafarer satchels signed up for, with more available for those who might wish to fill one. Pastor Allen will be blessing the Seafarer Satchels on **Sunday, October 18th**, so please be sure your satchel is returned by that date. We will be taking the satchels to the synod office the following week. Thank you so very much for your generous participation in this project. Paula Hershberger & Joy Hulslander.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 10/11, 11/08, 12/06, 01/10, 02/07, 03/07, 04/04, 05/02. All are welcome!

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY and Evangelism Committees will be sponsoring home delivered meals monthly for our shut-ins or any older member who doesn't cook much and would like a meal! We would also like to deliver to anyone with a recent illness etc. Please let Nikki Hidlay, Norma Fisher or the office know if you would like to be added to the delivery list. Meals will be ready for delivery after church on Sundays so can be taken home then as well. If members know of a neighbor or congregational member that would benefit from this ministry, please add them to the list! If you would like to help make food or delivery meals and haven't signed up yet, please see Nikki or text me at 717-994-6058. Thank you!

PRAYER CHAIN If anyone would like to be added as one of our **Prayer Warriors** to the prayer chain, please contact Gloria Stewart at 717-348-3935.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH will be hosting "**Messiah**" **Sunday, December 6th** at 3:00pm with Fred Benner as the Conductor. Rehearsals will be on Sunday's at 3:00pm beginning on **November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**. Any singers who are interested please join us!

ACOLYTES We have had adults show interest in being acolytes. If this is something you may be interested in, please see Norma Fisher to be added to the schedule.

WE ARE HIRING! LUMINA Center is looking to hire a full-time Program Coordinator and part-time Program Support Staff. If you or someone you know is looking for a great opportunity to spearhead missional programming, someone with vision, adaptability and a passion for making a huge impact on our local children and youth, please email inquiries and/or resume to execdirector@lumina-center.org

NEW LUMINA CENTER community restaurant cards are here! Cards sell for **\$10** and have discounts for **20 local restaurants**. New cards will be effective August 31, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Please see Janet Deamer or Susan C. in the church office.

4th QUARTER OFFERING has been designated for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING has been designated for 1/2 camperships and 1/2 energy bank.

COMMUNION ROBES If your communion robe is in need of cleaning (i.e. wine) please place it in the laundry basket in the robe room.

SJLC OFFICE lunch hour Tuesday and Thursday is between 11:30am -12:30pm.

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

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, October 27th, at 6:30pm.**

HAM SANDWICH sales have been moved to the **third Friday** in **October** (16th) and the **third Friday** in **November** (20th). Orders are due the Sunday before and sandwiches are \$4.00ea.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk, powdered milk.

Worship SCHEDULE

October 11 [Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play
October 18 [Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
October 25 [Reformation Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
November 1 [All Saints Day] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
November 8 [Twenty- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play
November 15 [Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. October 27th Council Meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm

Reminders for October

Acolytes – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Betty Weaver, Janet Deamer
Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman
Ushers – Scott Welham, Dallas Tanner, Joyce Tanner
Money Counters – Cheryl Bressler, Sandy Noble
Lay Lectors
October 4 – Kim Crone
October 11 – Youth
October 18 – Adele Craig
October 25 – Josie Baughman

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46*