

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 25th, 2026, 9:00AM Reformation Sunday / Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 – Allen Hulslander

Acolytes – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

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

Cantor – Andrew Thierwechter

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman

Crucifer – Ed Deamer

Lay Lector – Josie Baughman

Ushers – Scott Welham – head, Josh Pennepacker, Heidi Welham

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "For All the Saints" Ralph Vaughan Williams, Arr Eric F. Timerding 2026 Red River Music

Handbell Choir

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. #504 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Jon Farley will portray Martin Luther with 95 Theses and will enter during this hymn.

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 Setting 3

This Is the Feast

ELW pg. #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“God Is Our Refuge and Strength”

(Based on Psalm 46) Lloyd Larson, 2003 Lorenz Pub. Co.

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift,

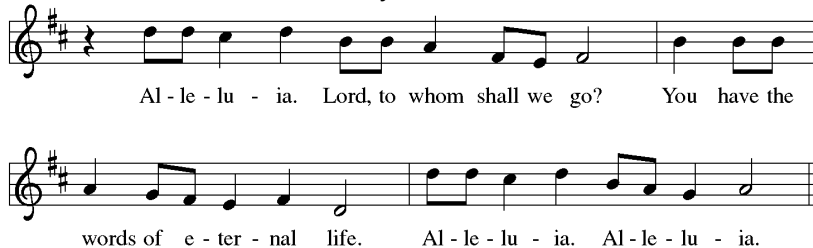
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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 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.**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "Hear us, O God"

And the Congregational response is

"Your mercy is great"

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 (spoken)

**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

ELW pg. #208 Setting 3



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

Jerry Stone – Flute

“Seek Ye First” with Edward MacDowell’s “To a Wild Rose” Karen Lafferty, Arr. Joel Raney, 2003 CCCM MUSIC

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” Henry Smith, Arr. Joel Raney, 2008 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

“Let All Things Now Living” Welsh Melody, Arr. Joel Raney, 2019 Hope 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. #517 “Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (#645 in our hymnal)

Jerry Stone - Flute

*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 Scott Price in honor of the 509th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and in memory of Mrs. Peggy Mixer who loved Reformation.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Pam Logan and family. In loving memory of Bill Logan.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of Heidi and Scott Welham given by Robyn Mertz.

THE COMMUNION WINE is given by Janet and Ed Deamer in honor of their church family.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASS is **today** immediately after worship.

THE SJLC REFORMATION Recital is on **today October 25th** at 3:00pm. Following the recital there will be refreshments including sandwiches and desserts in the fellowship hall provided by the Barnabas Brothers and the SJLC congregation.

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! The next **delivery date** is **today October 25th**. 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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED the Personnel Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in opening and closing the church on Sundays. If you would like to help out or have a question as to what would need completed, please see Adele Craig, Ed Stewart or Hillary Worley.

VETERANS DAY SJLC would like to honor our congregational members who are veterans for Veteran's Day **November 8th**. We are looking for pictures, names and years of service. Please give or email carrie@kishvet.com by **October 31st**

MEET AND EAT ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, November 3rd** at Sa-lee's Restaurant at 12-Noon. Please consider joining us. Would love to have you.

HOAGIE SALE The Barnabas Brothers' next hoagie sale is on **Friday, November 13th**. Orders are due on **Sunday, November 8th**. The cost is \$6.00ea. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Burk.

THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN is underway. Forms are at each entrance of the sanctuary and on the resource table. If you've volunteered for the same thing year after year, we ask you to re-enlist every year so that we know you are still interested. Please complete and return the form to the church office no later than **Sunday, November 15th**. This way the Stewardship Committee can have an updated list of volunteers in a timely manner. Thank you for volunteering and helping SJLC get off to a good start in 2027.

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

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

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

LUMINA HAM SANDWICH sales have been moved to 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

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

November 22 [Christ the King] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 29 [First Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

December 6 [Second Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play

Meetings (Please see above for details)

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

Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm

Reminders for November

Acolytes – Gisele Miller, Candy Sonnenberg

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Keira Martin

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray - crucifer, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich

Ushers – Dennis Noble - head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Scott Welham

Lay Lectors

November 1 – Jim Rosenberry

November 8 – Youth

November 15 – Gisele Miller

November 22 – Ed Deamer

November 29 – Cora Rankin

Next Sunday's Readings: *Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10,22, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12*