

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)

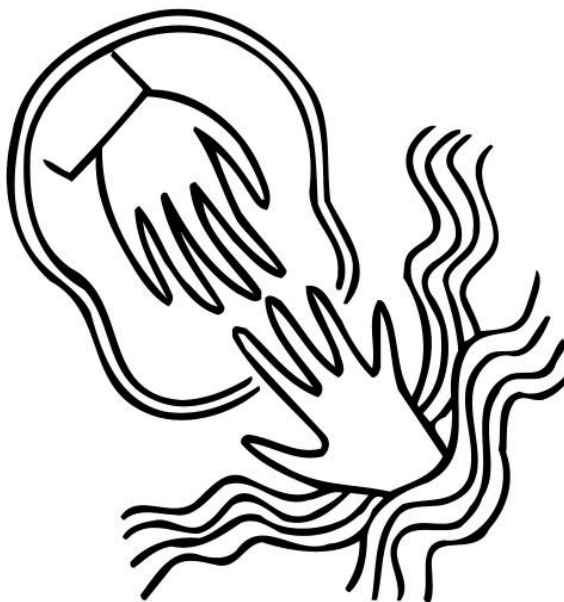
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, August 9th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to other

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 – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Jennifer Blessing

Cantor – Sue Shawver

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Guest Organist – Joan Loewen

Lay Lector – Adele Craig

Ushers – Tom Beaver – head, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM “Jubilant Jig” – Grichetchine. Lorenz Publishing Co. 2016.

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,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #821 "Shout to the Lord"

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“Great Is the Lord”

Michael W. Smith. Meadowgreen Music. 2001.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God’s presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD,

the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹ yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up

from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

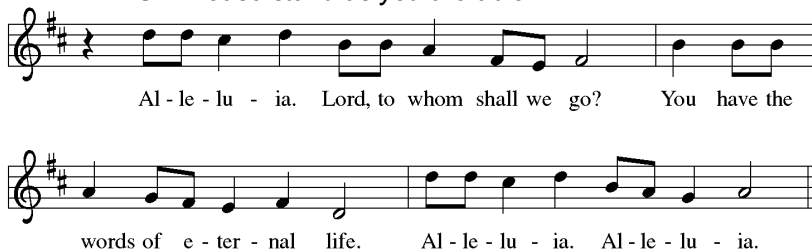
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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 Matthew the 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward

them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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 end with: "Merciful God"
And the Congregational response is
"receive our prayer"

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer. Steve Yohn 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. #144 Setting 3

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
Kihiken. Lorenz Publishing Co. 1992

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

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

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

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Allegro Vivace” Handel. Lorenz Publishing Co. 1984

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 Sandra and Dennis Noble in memory of their parents.

TODAY'S BASKET is presented by Josie Baughman in honor of all church musicians who share their talents for the Glory of God.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Robyn Mertz in honor of her grandchildren Sawyer, Cole and Mitch.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS is given by Anne and Art Spicer in honor of loved ones.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Cieara and Kyle Rankin in honor of Cooper's birthday.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

ORGAN'S CAMPAIGN REACHED With much gratitude, church council is thrilled to announce that not only has the Organ's Capital Campaign been reached, but the goal has also been surpassed! We are beyond blessed by your generosity and commitment to St. John's and our music ministry. With the extra monies received from surpassing the goal, church council plans to put it back into our Capital Improvements Account. It is encouraged to continue to give to help rebuild the Capital Improvements Account for future needs. Again, we thank you for your prayers and generous donations in making the goal a reality. Hillary N. Worley Council President.

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by Carrie & Andy Thierwechter and Sue Shawver.

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.

CHANCEL & HANDBELL CHOIRS will be starting again on **Wednesday, September 9th**.

LUMINA CENTER is Mifflin County's local mission. (No need to go across seas to do mission work – there is a huge need, right here in MC.) Please help us pray throughout this month of August for Father's provision, as noted below.

***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

****PRAYER HIGHLIGHT:**

Please ask Father for direction and provision of staff and volunteers to support needed programs here at LUMINA. We believe His will is to see LUMINA continue to grow and flourish. The need is great and becoming greater every day! Your prayers help us fulfill our mission of serving the needs of our children and youth well.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS are very proud and humbled to announce that they have been nominated for the 2026 Sentinel Reader's Choice Award for Nonprofit Organization. To be nominated for this Award by the Sentinel Readers is an honor as this category includes such highly esteemed Organizations like the United Way, Juniata Valley YMCA and the Lumina Center. The Barnabas Brothers Mission Statement is to support the St. John's Lutheran Church Congregation, Community Agencies and Members of the Community facing life's

struggles and challenges. Helping Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and God's Children in a Christian Manner is Our Goal. God's Work Our Hands. Thanks to Members of the Congregation for their support of our projects that provides hope for others. Thanks Steve Burk, Ed Stewart, Mike Reeder Barnabas Brothers Executive Committee.

REMINDER The deadline for the **September** newsletter is **Friday, August 21st**.

WELCA GROUPS Our WELCA groups recently received word from Lutheran World Relief that there is a **GREAT** need for **Personal Care Kits**. Therefore, we have decided to ask for only Personal Care Kits this summer. The information display is in the fellowship hall. We sent 20 last year. We are hoping for 100 this year. We will collect them until the end of September.

SEAFARE'R BAGS are now available in the church lobby. Instructions for them are in the bags. At Synod Assembly we learned that only **M** and **L sweatshirts and tee-shirts** are needed. Other items remain the same as last year. If you have already purchased XL sweatshirts and/or tee-shirts, please see Joy Hulslander or Paula Hershberger.

3rd QUARTER OFFERING has been designated to Shelter Services.

THE LUMINA CENTER discount cards will be expiring soon. From now till they expire at the end of August 2026 they have been reduced to **\$5 each**. The discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Look forward to the 2026-2027 cards coming soon.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 11th** at 6:00pm.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 18th** at 6:30pm.

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 25th**, at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **August** are non-perishable foods and condiments.

Worship SCHEDULE

August 16 [Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 23 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 30 [Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
September 6 [Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
September 13 [Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
September 20 [Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. August 11th Christian Ed meeting at 6:00pm.
Tue. August 18th Worship & Music Committee meeting at 6:30pm.
Tue. August 25th Council meeting at 6:30pm

Reminders for August

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Jennifer Blessing

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble – crucifer, Candace Sonnenberg, Gisele Miller

Ushers – Tom Beaver – head, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

Money Counters – Andrew Thierwechter, Gloria Stewart

Lay Lectors

August 9 – Adele Craig

August 16 – Kim Crone

August 23 – Jim Rosenberry

August 30 – Sue Shawver

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28*

