

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

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

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

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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**Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ Sixth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3**

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## INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

**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* – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Carrie Thierwechter, Holly Seby

*Cantor* – Dave Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Tom Beaver

*Crucifer* – Dave Ray

*Lay Lector* – Jim Rosenberry

*Ushers* – Ed Stewart – head, Gloria Stewart

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Patriotic Medley included "America, the Beautiful" Samuel A. Ward; "My Country Tis if Thee" Thesaurus Musicus, c, 1745; "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Traditional American Melody Arr. Brent Olstad, 1999 Ron Harris Music

**Jerry Stone - Flute**

### **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,  
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. #742 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

## **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**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Special Music**

“This Is My Song, God of All Nations” Jean Sibelius, Arr. Lloyd Larson 2016 Lorenz Pub. Co.  
**Jerry Stone - Flute**

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

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14**

*The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures  
throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

### **Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members

another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to

reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "God of Grace"

And the Congregational response is:

**"hear our prayer"**

## SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

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

**"And also with you."**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer and the Call Committee.

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

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

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

### *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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**

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 (SUNG)** Inside back cover of Hymnal.

**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 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

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

## Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 3



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

## COMMUNION

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

### Communion Music

**Jerry Stone – Flute**

“Ashokan Farewell” Jay Unger, 1983 Swinging Door Music

“God of Our Fathers” George William Warren, Arr. Phillip Keveren and Lloyd Larson, 2002 Hal Leonard and 2016 Lorenz 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**

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. #608 Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”**

**Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “God Bless America” Irving Berlin 1939 Irving Berlin Inc.

**Jerry Stone - Flute**

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## DEDICATIONS

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Jack Ingram in honor of loved ones.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Sandy and Denny Noble in honor of their daughters and their families.

**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 Keira and Mark Martin dedicated to the Semiquincentennial of a land that promises liberty and religious freedom to all Christians.

## ST. JOHN'S NEWS

**NO SOCIAL** hour today after worship.

**ALL CHURCH LADIES** are invited to join the Meet & Eat group at the Bel-Vue Inn in Reedsville on **Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 12-Noon** for lunch, followed by a visit to Debbie Kling's lovely gardens at 39 Track Rd., Reedsville. Please call Jennie if you are in need of a ride at 717- 248-1327.

**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.

**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.

**2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER OFFERING** has been designated to Camp Mt. Luther – Capital Campaign Fund.

**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

**WELCA MEETING** is on **Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>** following worship.

**SJLC COUNCIL MEETING** is on **Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

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

# Worship SCHEDULE

July 12 [Seventh Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
July 19 [Eighth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
July 26 [Ninth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
August 2 [Tenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
August 9 [Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
August 16 [Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
August 23 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

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

Sun. July 26<sup>th</sup> WELCA meeting after worship.

Tue. July 28<sup>th</sup> SJLC council meeting 6:30pm.

### **Reminders for July**

**Acolytes** – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Carrie Thierwechter, Holly Seby

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Ray – crucifer, Ginny Ray, Mary Barr

**Ushers** – Ed Stewart – head, Gloria Stewart

**Money Counters** – Sandy Noble, Carrie Stuftt

### **Lay Lectors**

July 5 – Jim Rosenberry

July 12 – Anne Spicer

July 19 – Gisele Miller

July 26 – Ed Deamer

**Next Sunday's Readings:** *Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65[1-8] –13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

