

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 17th, 2025, 9:00 AM ✦ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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 – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Norma Fisher, Gloria Stewart

Cantor – Cora Rankin

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Ed Deamer, Hillary Worley

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Lay Reader – Kim Crone

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

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "The Family of God" Gloria & William J. Gaither, Arr. Phillip Keveren 2015 Hannah Street Music

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.*

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #732 “Borning Cry”

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

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“There’s Something About That Name” William J. Gaither, Arr. Lloyd Larson, 2013 William J. Gaither

Cora Rankin - vocal

Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

I present Huck David Dudukovitch for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Huck David baptized into Christ?

Sponsors: We do.

As you bring Huck David to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in his hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer,

so that he may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Huck David grow in the Christian faith and life?

Sponsors: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Huck David and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate.

Huck David, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you
give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise
them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Huck David with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom
and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of
knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.

Amen.

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil
prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Huck David, as a child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as
a representative of the congregation says:*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the
congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome Huck David Dudukovitch.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we
share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**

Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

Psalm: Psalm 82

Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,**

and all of you children of the Most High;
⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
 and fall like any prince.’”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,**
for you shall take all nations for your own.

Second Reading: II Timothy 1:3-14

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 Luke the 12th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allen

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."

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,
Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh,
Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson,
Joanne Troutman, Darlene Varner,
Toby Sweigart 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



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

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

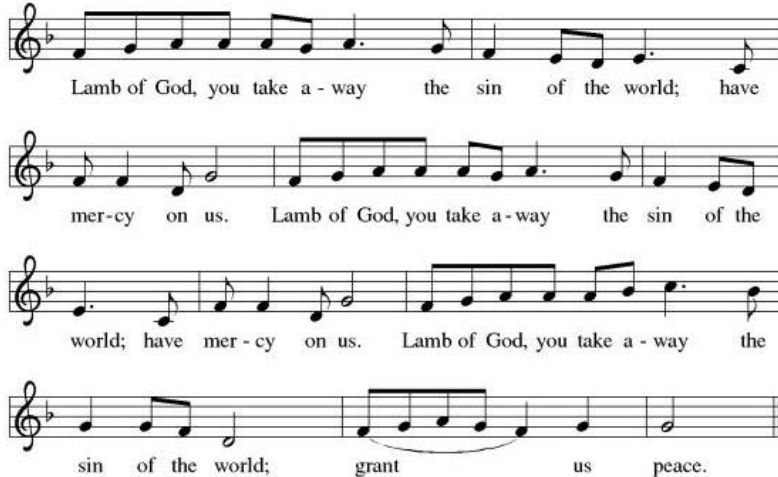
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

INVITATION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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

"I'd Rather Have Jesus" George Beverly Shea, Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2015 Word Music

"My Tribute" Andrae Crouch, Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2015 Bud John Songs

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Thomas A. Dorsey, Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2015 Warner-Tamerlane Pub. Corp.

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

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table, and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #815 “I Want to Walk as a Child of Light”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “What God Ordains Is Good Indeed” (#776 in our hymnal)

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2025 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 Dawn and Steve Palm and family in loving memory of Robert S. Palm.

TODAY'S BASKET is presented by Letitia Kelly in loving memory of her grandmother Ethel and in honor of her 3 daughters Briah, Ava, and Geneva.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Josie Baughman in memory of her grandmother who took her to church every week.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of her granddaughters Ella and Addie by Barb Henry.

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

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

TODAY WE CELEBRATE the baptism of Huck David Dudukovich the son of Jenna and Nik Dudukovich.

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

HANDBELL AND CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal will start on **Wednesday, September 3rd**. Handbell Choir at **6:00pm** and Chancel Choir at **6:30pm**.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP CHOIR rehearsal will start on Sunday, **September 7th at 8:00am** before church.

NURSERY COVERAGE for the coming year. Anyone planning to provide Nursery coverage for the upcoming year must have their clearance on file with the church. To be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy all volunteers who work with, and around anyone under the age of 18 need to have their PA Criminal Background and Child Abuse Clearance completed and on file with the church. All clearances are given to Nikki Hidlay and Hillary Worley who will pass them onto the office. If you are uncertain if you have your clearances, please reach out to the SJLC office.

ORGAN FUND There is now an option through Vanco (on-line giving) for donations to go towards the organ fund.

THIRD QUARTER SPECIAL OFFERING will go towards the Energy Bank.

REMINDER If you'd like something added to the upcoming Fall newsletter please submit it to the office by **Tuesday, August 26th**. Thank you!

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.

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

LUMINA CENTER The new **2025** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

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

THE JUNIATA VALLEY CONFERENCE meeting is on **Thursday, August 21st** at 10:00am-12:00pm in the Social Room.

THE SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 26th** at 6:30pm.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION meeting is on **Tuesday, September 2nd** at 6:00pm.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD items for **August** are non perishable foods and condiments.

Worship SCHEDULE

August 24 [Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

August 31 [Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

September 7 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00 am Worship

September 14 [Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School

September 21 [Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

September 28 [Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Thu. 08/21 The Juniata Valley Conference meeting at 10:00am-12:00pm in the Social Room.

Tue. 08/26 SJLC Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Tue. 09/02 Christian Ed meeting at 6:00pm.

Wed. 09/03, 09/10, 09/17, 09/24 Handbell and Chancel Choir at 6:00pm.

Sun. 09/07, 09/14, 09/21, 09/28 praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Reminders for August

Acolytes – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Norma Fisher, Gloria Stewart

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble – crucifer, Mary Barr, Ed Deamer

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

Money Counters – Gloria Stewart, Andrew Thierwechter

Lay Lectors

August 24 – Joyce Tanner

August 31 – Hillary Worley

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Jameson Phillips, Dorian Phillips

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

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills – crucifer, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

Ushers – Dave Ray – head, Ginny Ray, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Terri Limes, Deb Kling

Lay Lectors

September 7 – Sue Shawver

September 14 – Youth

September 21 – Jenna Dudukovich

September 28 – Anne Spicer

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17*