

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, June 28th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Peter and Paul, Apostles/ Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.

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 – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

Altar Guild Volunteers – Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller, Cora Rankin

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Tom Beaver, Dennis Noble

Crucifer – Scott Price

Lay Lector – Tom Beaver

Ushers – Dennis Crossgrove – head, Judy Spencer, Norma Fisher

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Eternal Life" Olive Dungan, Arr. Terry Baldrige, 1949 John Church Co.

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.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

**Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.**

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus

and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #575 "In Christ Called to Baptize"

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, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

ELW #625 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Congregation Sing

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

King Herod had James killed and had Peter put in prison, under heavy guard. In what Peter first believes is only a vision, an angel leads him past unseeing guards, out of the prison, and to freedom.

¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what

was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God. (Ps. 87:3)

¹ On the holy mountain

stands the city God has founded;

² **the LORD loves the gates of Zion**

more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³ Glorious things are spoken of you,

O city of our God.

⁵ **Of the city it shall be said, "Everyone was born in Zion,
and the Most High shall sustain the city."**

⁶ Enrolling the nations, the LORD records:

"These also were born there."

⁷ **The singers and the dancers will say,**

"All my fresh springs are in you."

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Paul has faithfully persevered in the mission the Lord had given to him. Near life's end he rests in the promise of eternal life, confident that the Lord who has rescued him in the past will bring him into the heavenly kingdom.

[The apostle writes:] ⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the

lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 John the 21st Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 21:15-19

Jesus invites Simon Peter to declare his love for him three times, in a manner reminiscent of the three times that Peter earlier denied Christ. Jesus commissions him to feed his sheep and predicts that he will die as a martyr for God.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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, 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "Lord in your mercy"

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."

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.**

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

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

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

“Just As I Am Without One Plea” William B. Bradbury, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” with “God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again” Hans G. Nageli and William G. Tomer, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“In Christy Alone” Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Arr. Melody Bober, 2002 THANKYOU MUSIC

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. #676 “Lord, Speak To Us That We May Speak”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” (#651 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Heidi and Scott Welham in honor of their family.

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

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS is given by Nancy Maguire in loving memory of Mary Jane Leister.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Carrie and Dr. Grant Stufft in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don Stufft and Carol Kester.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by Dave Ray's Sunday School Class.

THANK YOU EVERYONE for participating in the "Baby Bottle" donations for the Crossroads Pregnancy Center. They are much appreciated. If you still have a baby bottle you may return it to the office at your convenience. Thank you! Susan C.

ALL CHURCH LADIES are invited to join the Meet & Eat group at the Bel-Vue Inn in Reedsville **Tuesday, July 7th 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.

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.

2ND 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 26th** following worship.

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

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

Worship SCHEDULE

July 5 [Sixth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
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

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Sun. July 26th WELCA meeting after worship.
Tue. July 28th 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 Stufft

Lay Lectors

July 5 – Jim Rosenberry

July 12 – Anne Spicer

July 19 – Gisele Miller

July 26 – Ed Deamer

Next Sunday's Readings: Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

