

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
stjohnslewisown@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.stjohnslewisown.com>

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

Sunday, December 8th, 2024, 9:00AM ✦ *Second Sunday of Advent/ Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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 Huslander

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz

Cantor – Geneva Kelly

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Ed Deamer, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Justice Mills

Lay Reader – Jim Rosenberry

Ushers – Dorian Phillips, Jameson Phillips, Leif Phillips

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "O Come, Little Children" Johann Abraham Schultz, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2019 Lorenz

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,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #253 “He Came Down”

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.

Hymn of Praise

The Annunciation & Magnificat

Inside back of hymnal.

Cantor (Annunciation) & Congregation

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

“Jesus Means Christmas to Me” Luke Gambill, 1983 Brentwood Benson Music Pub.

Praise and Worship Youth Choir: Geneva Kelly, Dorian Phillips, Jameson Phillips, Leif Phillips, Kiersten Treaster, Kyle Treaster

“Emmanuel” Michael W. Smith, Arr. Luke Gambill, 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co.

“Angels, from the Realm of Glory” James Montgomery and Henry T. Smart, Arr. Luke Gambill, 2016 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Benson Pub.

2nd verse solo: Kiersten Treaster, 3rd verse solo: Geneva Kelly

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” James Montgomery and Henry T. Smart, Arr. Luke Gambill, 2016 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Pub.

2nd verse solo: Kiersten Treaster; 3rd verse solo: Geneva Kelly

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” Nahum Tate and George Fredrick Handel, Arr. Luke Gambill, 2016 Capitol CMG Genesis

**2nd verse solo: Kiersten Treaster, 3rd verse solo: Jameson Phillips,
4th verse solo: Dorian Phillips**

“Sing We Now of Christmas” French Carol, Arr. Luke Gambill CMG Genesis

2nd verse solo: Leif Phillips, 3rd verse solo: Geneva Kelly

“Jesus Means Christmas to Me” with “Silent Night Holy Night” Luke Gambill and Pam Andrews; Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber, 2008 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Pub; 2016 Capital CMG Genesis

**1st verse solo: Dorian Phillips, 2nd verse solo: Jameson Phillips
3rd verse solo: Geneva Kelly, 4th verse solo: Kiersten Treaster**

Congregation, please join us in singing.

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

“Emmanuel” with “O Come, Let Us Adore Him” Michael W. Smith; John Francis Wade, 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co; 206 Capitol CMG Genesis

Congregation, please join us in singing.

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

For He alone is worthy, for He alone is worthy,

for He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: *“Lord, in your mercy.”*

And the Congregational response is:

“receive 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, Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull, Dave Borland, Larry Niemond, Martha Liebegott, Peter Marsh 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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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....and join their unending hymn (sung):

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

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.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among.....Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

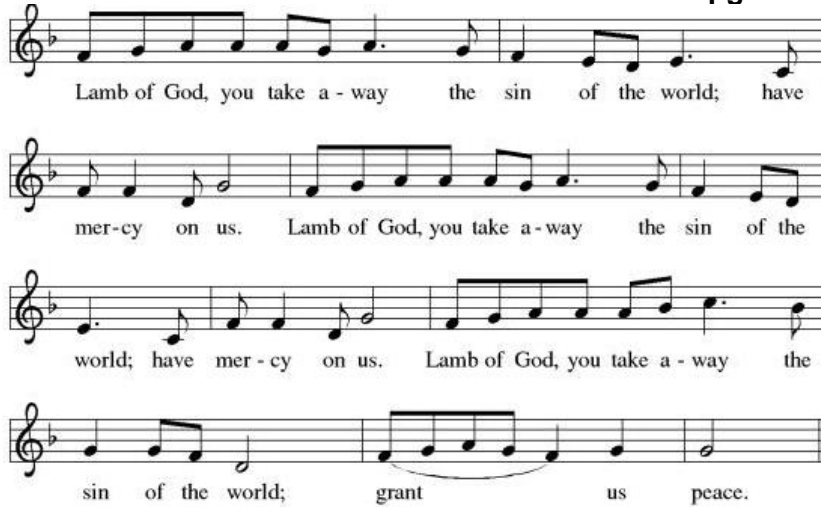
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

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

“Wexford Carol” Irish Carol, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2019 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“Once in a Royal David’s City” Inspired by Chopin’s “Etude in E Major,” Op. 10, No. 3, Henry J. Gauntlett, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2014 Alfred Music

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” Inspired by Chopin’s “Prelude in E Minor,” Op. 28, No. 4, Traditional, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2014

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

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #292 “Love has Come”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “That Boy-Child of Mary” (#293 in our Hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2024 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 Brenda Reeder in honor of her children and grandchildren.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Cindy Burk and family in loving memory and honor of Mr. Leroy Waite

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in loving memory of John and Ella Mae Blessing.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Jennifer Blessing and the Sufcynski family in honor of Ella Mae and John Blessing.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

THE LEWISTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR “Let Christmas Ring” concert is this afternoon at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. The Barnabas Brothers are providing a reception with refreshments following the concert.

POINSETTIAS!! It's time to order Poinsettias! Poinsettia color choices are white, red, pink, and jingle bell. The cost is \$9 per flower. Order forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please put completed forms and payment in the lock box. **Orders are due today December 8, 2024.**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH is sponsoring all activities on Sunday December 15th, at Kish Park from 5:30-9:00pm. A signup sheet is posted on the Church Office window for Volunteers to operate the Snack Shack, Train Room, Greeters on the Bridge and Golf Cart Drivers. Please consider signing up to serve and celebrate the Shining Light Through the Darkness festivities. Baked goods and individual snack items are accepted to feed area residents during this Holiday Season. Shining Light Through the Darkness praises Our Lord and Savior. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 717-250-7410. Thank You, Respectfully, Steve Burk.

STAFF CHRISTMAS Envelopes for Staff Christmas gifts are on the tables with the offering plates and on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Donations for staff gifts will be accepted through Sunday December 22nd, 2024. Thanks for your support. We are blessed to have a faithful staff.

THE SALVATION ARMY Red Kettle will be placed in the Fellowship Hall starting this **Sunday through January 1st**. Please consider supporting the Salvation Army as they help area residents this Holiday Season. The Barnabas Brothers plan to fill the Kettle with a \$100.00 donation to help Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN and ETERNAL CANDLE sponsor dates are available for **2025**. Sign-up sheet is on the office window.

2025 OFFERING ENEVELOPES are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 4th Quarter Special Offering will go towards Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

CHIRSTMAS OFFERING will go towards Camp Scholarships.

NEW INFORMATION has been put up on the WELCA bulletin in the hallway between the office and the library. There is more information on the Seafarer bags and on the quilts.

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

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

LUMINA CENTER The new **2024/2025** 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.

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.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

ATTENTION COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS it's that time of year to submit your yearly report for the SJLC Annual report which is due December 31st. Therefore, the administration office asks that all reports be submitted via email, US mail, or in writing no later than Friday **December 13th, 2024**. Thank you.

THE COUNCIL MEETING is on Monday December 16th, 2024, at 6:00pm.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for **December** are **Holiday Meal** items such as: canned ham, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, pie filling, pie crust mix, cake mix, and icing.

HAM SANDWICH SALE is on the second Friday of every month at SJLC. Orders are due the Monday before.

PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP Needs sheets (slightly used ok). Deliver to quilt room.

Worship SCHEDULE

December 15 [Third Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15 Sunday School

December 22 [Fourth Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

December 24 [Nativity of Our Lord] 7:40pm Prelude, 8:00pm Worship

December 29 [First Sunday of Christmas] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

12/11 Wed. Choir practice 6:30pm

12/16 Mon. Council Meeting 6:00pm.

Choir Rehearsal Schedules for December/January

December 11th – 6:30pm Youth Choir

December 11th – 7:00pm Chancel Choir dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary to prepare for Cantata on Sunday December 15th.

December 18th – 6:30pm Youth Choir and 7:00pm Chancel Choir

December 24th – Youth Choir and Chancel Choir 8:00pm Tuesday Christmas Eve Family Service (Pre-service music – piano duets 7:40pm-8:00pm.)

December 25th and January 1st – No Rehearsals

January 8th – 6:30pm Youth Choir and 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Reminders for December

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Ed Deamer, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Justice Mills

Ushers – Norma Fisher – head usher, Dennis Crossgrove, Janet Deamer

Money Counters – Ed Aurand, Norma Fisher

Lay Lectors

December 1 – Gisele Miller

December 8 – Children

December 15 – James Rosenberry

December 22 – Norma Fisher

December 29 – Terri Limes

Christmas Eve

Communion Assistants – Scott Price – crucifer, Dave Phillips – book bearer, Terri Limes

Lay Lector – TBA

Ushers – Steve Burk – head usher, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

Next Sunday Readings: *Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*