

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)

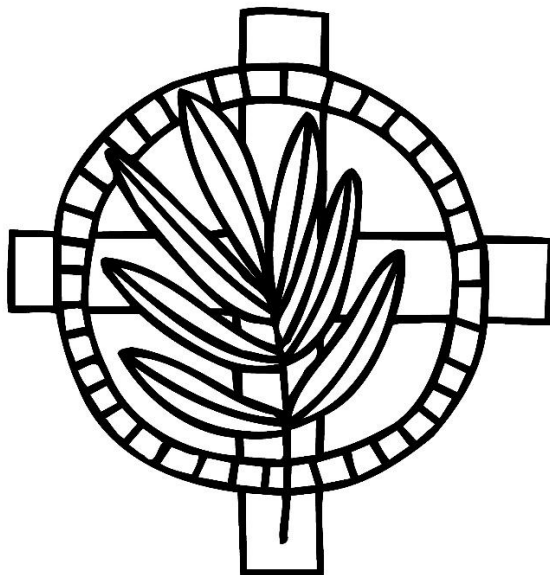
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, August 30th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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

Worship Leader – Nikki Hidlay

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Jennifer Blessing, La Donna Smith

Cantor – Nellie Wilson

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Candace Sonnenberg, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Lay Lector – Sue Shawver

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

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Joseph Barnaby, Arr. Carol Tornquist 2009 Alfred Music Pub. Co.

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.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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.
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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #720 "We Are Called"

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“The Prayer” Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster, Arr. Mary McDonald and Josel Raney,
2018 Warner-Barham Music LLC
Piano Duet with Nellie Wilson

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah’s delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God’s hand upon him and God’s seeming unfaithfulness. God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with you.”

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,

nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

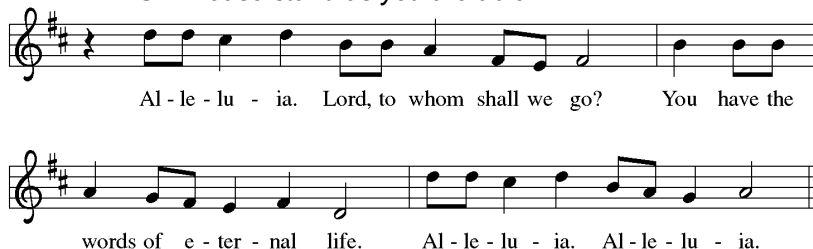
⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

After the reading ...

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Mrs. Carrie Stufft

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: "Merciful God"

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."

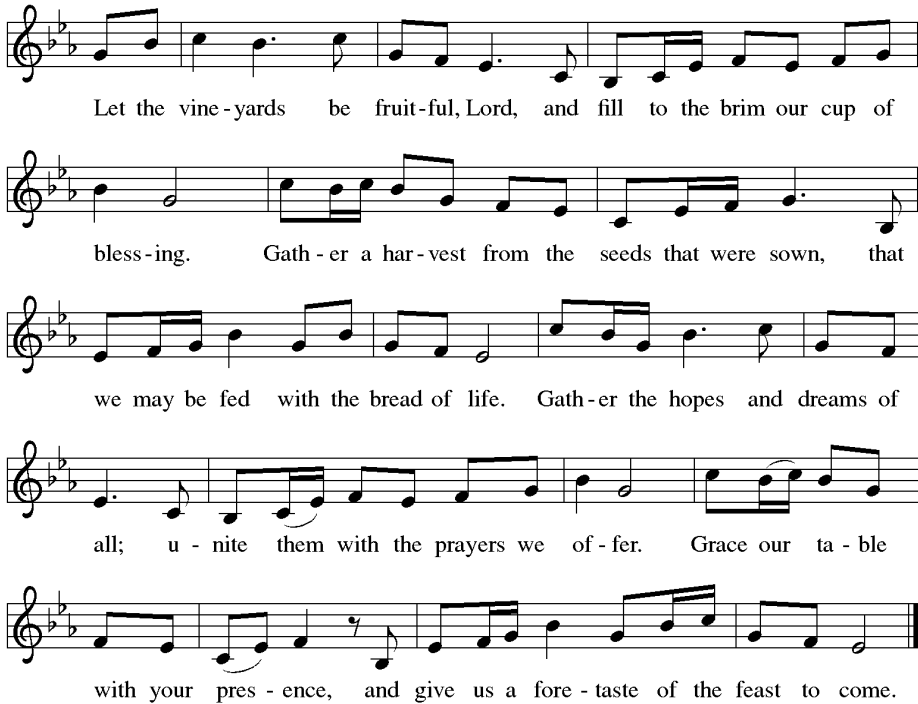
Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer. Steve Yohn, Patti Niemond and the Call Committee.

*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

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.

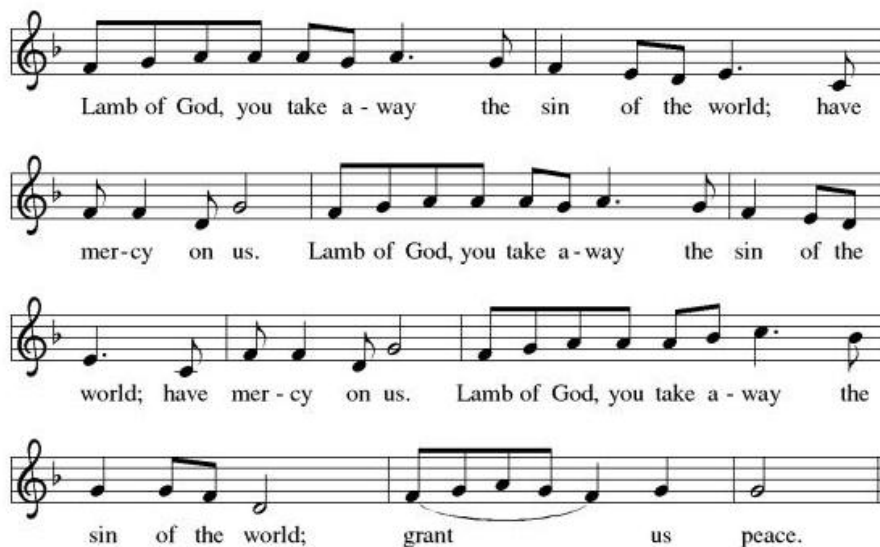
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Paul Baloche, Arr. Carol Tornquist, 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

“I Will Keep My Eyes on You” Cindy Berry 2009 Hal Leonard

“I Want to Jesus to Walk with Me” African American Spiritual, Arr. Tom Fettke, 2016 Alfred 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

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. #656 “Blest Be the Tide That Binds”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” (#658 in our hymnal)

*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 the Ingram family in memory of Helen and Robert Ingram.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Cheryl and Ed Bressler in memory of Cheryl's father Ralph W. Sampsell.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory and honor of over 20 Barnabas Brothers who have been called to heaven by their Lord and Savior. These Barnabas Brothers faithfully served their Lord, SJL Church and the community. We're blessed that our lives are inspired by their Christian faith and acts of kindness. Given by Cindy and Steve Burk.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Dennis Crossgrove in memory of Elaine Crossgrove's birthday.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by Mariah King, Anne Spicer and Robyn Mertz.

MEET & EAT ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, September 1st** at the Country Kitchen restaurant. Luncheon is at 12-Noon. All ladies, welcome!

NEW LUMINA CENTER community restaurant cards are here! Cards sell for **\$10** and have discounts for **20 local restaurants**. New cards will be effective August 31, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Please see Janet Deamer or Susan C. in the church office.

HAM SANDWICH SALE The LUMINA ham sandwich sales are starting back up! We will be taking orders until **Sunday, September 6th** and our first ham sandwich **pick-up day** of the season will be on **Friday, September 11th**. Ham Sandwiches are **\$4.00 each** and ham is supplied by Wilson's Meats. Please see Janet Deamer and/or the order form posted on the church window.

OFFICE CLOSED The SJLC office will be **closed** on **Monday, September 7th** for Labor Day. The office will be open the remainder of the week and Pastor Allen will be in on Wednesday and Thursday.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH has decided to partner with Wesley Chapel in a mission to help the families of children who are in the Janey Weis Children's Hospital NICU Danville starting on **Sunday, September 6th**. We will be **collecting water, snacks, energy bars, microwave soups** and a variety of **non-perishable heat** and **serve meals** through the month of September, with collection ending on September 27th. These donations will help to stock the Family Lounge that parents and loved ones use while their child is staying in the hospital. It enables them to take a quick break or to get a much needed pick-me-up without having to go too far from their child. There will be a box located under the coat rack in the lobby and Pam will collect all donations to make sure they are taken to Danville. We greatly appreciate all your donations and support of our mission.

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

ALL ARE INVITED to "A Celebration of God's Gift of Music" concert on **Sunday, September 13th at 3:00pm**. There will be a variety of performers and music presented. Following the concert there will be light refreshments provided by the Barnabas Brothers in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend this special event.

BLOOD DRIVE! The Red Cross will be having a blood drive at St., John's Lutheran Church on **Thursday, September 17th** from Noon to 5:00pm. **"Save a life. Donate today!"**

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.

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.

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.

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

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, September 22nd**, at **6:30pm**.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **September/October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk, powdered milk.

Worship SCHEDULE

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

September 27 [Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 4 [Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 11 [Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. September 22nd Council meeting at 6:30pm

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Geneva Kelly, Dorian Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Becky Yeater, Mina Phillips

Communion Assistants – Scott Price crucifer, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

Ushers – Dave Ray head, Ginny Ray, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Helen Rager, Deb Kling

Lay Lectors

September 6 – Ray Dillon

September 13 – Youth

September 20 – Jenna Dudukovich

September 27 Anne Spicer

Next Sunday's Readings: *Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20.*