

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 16th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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 – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

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

Cantor – Josie Baughman

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Lay Lector – Kim Crone

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

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM “Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee” In the setting of J.S. Bach's “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” John B. Dykes, Arr. Cindy Berry 1989 Pilot Point 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.*

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. #650 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,
that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"In the Garden"

C. Austin Miles, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Josie Baughman and Melissa Rosenberry – Duet

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

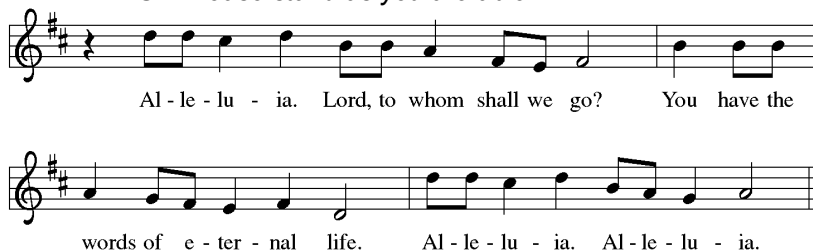
[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters'

table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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: "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, Mary Barr 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 (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

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” with “The Love of God” and “Jesus Loves Me” Stuart Townsend; Frederick M. Lehman; William H. Bradbury; Arr. Jeff Bennett 2011 Lillenas Pub. Co.

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

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. #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “There’s a Witness in God’s Mercy” (#588 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 Sue and Mike Shawver in honor of their family. **THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** 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 ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS is given by Josie Baughman in thanks for God's mercy, love and many blessings.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Carrie and Andrew Theirwechter to the Glory of God and our St. John's Church family.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by Melissa Rosenberry and Robyn Mertz.

ST. JOHN'S ELCA will be hosting a Synod event Wednesday, August 19th, from 8am-12pm. They will be using the social room. Please respect their space. Pastor Allen. Because of the Synod meeting **Pastor Allen** will be in the office **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** only next week.

PARENTS If you have a child in the 7th or 8th, please see Pastor Allen about confirmation class by August 23rd.

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.

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

REMINDER The deadline for the **September** newsletter is **Friday, August 21st**.

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.

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.

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

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 18th** at 6:30pm.

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday August 25th**, at 6:30pm.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

August 23 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

August 30 [Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

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

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. August 18th Worship & Music Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Tue. August 25th Council meeting at 6:30pm

Reminders for August

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Jennifer Blessing

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble – crucifer, Candace Sonnenberg, Gisele Miller

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

Money Counters – Andrew Thierwechter, Gloria Stewart

Lay Lectors

August 16 – Kim Crone

August 23 – Jim Rosenberry

August 30 – Sue Shawver

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Geneva Kelly, Dorain Phillips Per: Norma

Altar Guild Volunteers – Ann Hetrick, Nancy Craig, Becky Yeater, Kathy Limes

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

Ushers – Dave Ray, 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: *Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20*