

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, May 3rd, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fifth Sunday of Easter / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds, we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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

Sermon – Nikki Hidlay, Dave Ray

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Peggy Finkenbiner, Sharon Phillips, Jen Johnson

Cantor – Josie Baughman

Communion Assistants – Hillary Worley, Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Hillary Worley

Lay Lector – Ed Deamer

Ushers – Dennis Noble – head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" Inspired by Bach's "Musette in D Major"
William Moore, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2025 Alfred Music

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.*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

Amen.

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

Glory to God

ELW pg. #139 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“Come Now and Follow Me”

Don Besig and Nancy Price, 2001 Harold Flammer Music

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

Nikki Hidlay

WORD

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered

their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

After the reading ...

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Dave Ray

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

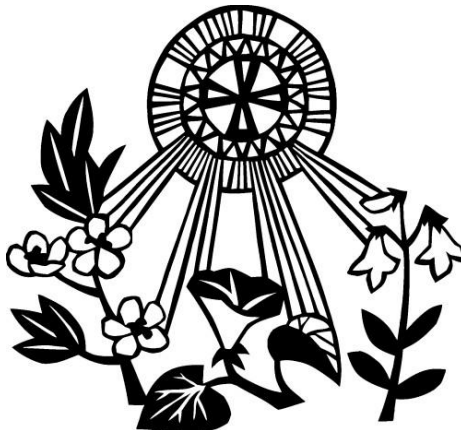
The petitions end with: "Merciful God"
And the Congregational response is:
"receive our prayer"

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, Peter Marsh, Gail
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson,
Joanne Troutman, Toby Sweigart,
Freda Hook, 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

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. #144 Setting 3

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues:

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.

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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

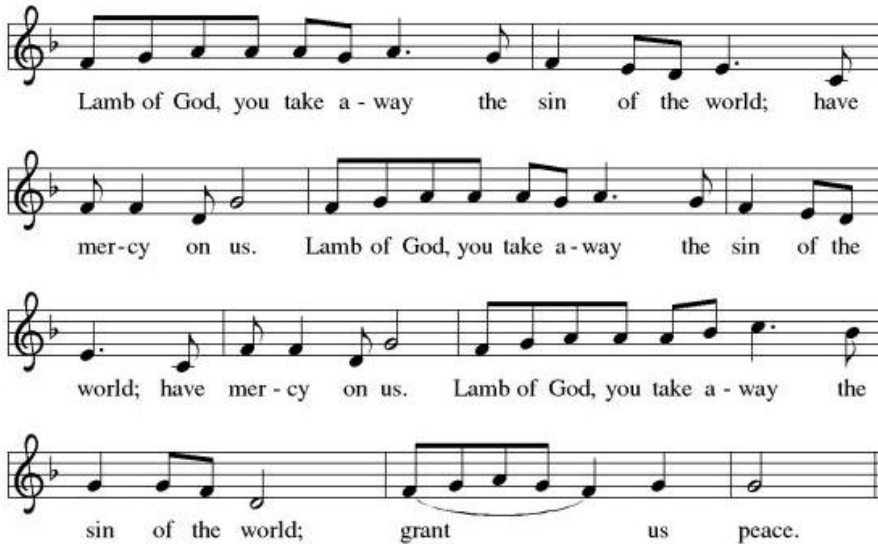
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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

- “Morning Has Broken” Gaelic Melody, Arr. Marilyn Ham, 2011 Alfred Music Pub. Co., Inc.
- “He Is Lord” with “When Morning Gilds the Skies” Rev. Marvin Frey and Joseph Barnaby, Arr. Cindy Berry 2004 Pilot Point Music
- “For the Beauty of the Earth” Inspired by Vivaldi’s “Spring” from “The Four Seasons” Conrad Kocher, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2025 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

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #758 “You Are the Way”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives” (#380 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Ed Stewart in memory of his parents Helen and Chuck Stewart.

TODAY'S BASKET is presented by Kathy Seiler in memory of Helen Purcell given by her family.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Shannon Gibboney in memory of her parents.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of loved ones given by Doris Hidlay.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Joyce and Dallas Tanner in memory of Doris's mother, Clara Kress.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

PASTOR ALLEN AND JOY will be on vacation from **April 29th through May 9th**. If there is a need for Pastoral care, please call Nikki Hiday at #717-994-6058.

MEET & EAT ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, May 5th** at 12-Noon at Juniata Junction. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant. Please call Jennie if you'd like to ride along at #717-248-1327.

TUESDAY MAY 5th is the last day to purchase Mother, Daughter's Day Banquet tickets. Tickets are available for purchase in the SJLC office.

BABY BOTTLES Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day, Crossroads Pregnancy Center holds their "**Baby Bottle Boomerang**" fundraiser. If you want to participate, just pick up a baby bottle at one of the church entrances, fill it with your spare change, & return the baby bottle to the church office by **Father's Day Sunday, June 21st**. Thank you for your support! Give online www.cpcforlife.org

2026 GRADUATES If you have a high school or college graduate, please let the **office know ASAP** as we plan to recognize all graduates on **Sunday, June 7th**. SJLC office #717-248-8780.

REGISTRATION forms for Camp Mount Luther are on the resource table. The church will cover 75% of Tier 3 Pricing this year. Please register online **by May 15th**.

WELCA SPRING FLOWER TEA and fashion show at SJLC on **Saturday, May 16th** from 11:00am to 2:00pm in the social room. Tickets are \$12.00 If you would like to come, please see Sue Phillips.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER deadline is **Thursday, May 21st**. Thank you!

RED CROSS BLOODRIVE is on **Wednesday, May 29th** at SJLC from Noon-5pm. **Save a Life! Donate today!**

SPONSOR A CHILD for Rainbow Summer vacation bible school at Lumina Center this summer. For \$200, a child will enjoy 2 full weeks of summer camp. Please donate by **Sunday, May 31st**. For more information, please see Janet Deamer.

SECOND QUARTER OFFERING has been designated to Camp Mount Luther – Capital Campaign Fund.

THE 2026 SUMMER SOCIAL sign-up sheet for summer sponsors after worship is on the church window.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER 2026 flyer with summer programs, registration and scholarship information have been placed at the entrances of the sanctuary and on the resource table. Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome, fun-filled programs for summer adventures.

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

LUMINA CENTER The new **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards will be available for purchase in **August**. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community.

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 on **Tuesday, May 26th** at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **May/June** are shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bars of soap.

HAM SANDWICH SALE There will be **no** Ham Sandwich sale in **May**. They will be taking the summer off, and sales will **pick up** again in **September**. Thank you for all the support and efforts toward the Lumina Center!

Worship SCHEDULE

May 10 [Sixth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

May 17 [Seventh Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship

May 24 [Day of Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

May 31 [The Holy Trinity] 9:00am Worship

June 7 [Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

June 14 [Third Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

June 21 [Fourth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

June 28 [Fifth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. May 26th Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Reminders for May

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Peggy Finkenbiner, Sharon Phillips, Jen Johnson

Communion Assistants – Hillary Worley – crucifer, Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller

Ushers – Dennis Noble – head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Helen Rager

Lay Lectors

May 10 – MCHS Cantare

May 17 – Joyce Tanner

May 24 – Sue Shawver

May 31 – Cora Rankin

Next Sunday: *MCHS Cantare*