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

Sunday, November 29th, 2026, 9:00AM *First Sunday of Advent / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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 – Gisele Miller, Candy Sonnenberg
Altar Guild Volunteers – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Keira Martin
Cantor – Dave Phillips (Annunciation and Magnificat)
Communion Assistants – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich
Crucifer – Dave Ray
Lay Lector – Cora Rankin
Ushers – Dennis Nobel – head, Sandra Noble, Deb Kling
Media & Production – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler, Annette Rager

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Shine on Us" (based on Psalm 80:3) Michael W. and Deborah Smith, 2010 Sony/ATV Music Pub.

Mina Phillips - Vocal

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING "Celebration of the Candle of Hope"

*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,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
Amen.
A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.
"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. [Thanks be to God!]

HORN **Carrie Stufft**

Processional Hymn **ELW pg. #244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

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**

Annunciation & Magnificat **On the back cover of the hymnal.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music
"Waiting for a King"
Joseph M. Martin and J. Paul Williams, 1997 Timespann, a div. of The Lorenz Corp.
Mina and Dave Phillips – Vocal
Jerry Stone – Flute

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.
1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence — 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire
causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the
nations might tremble at your presence!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**
Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

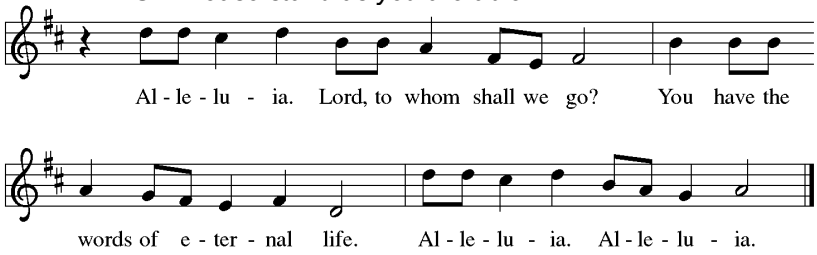
Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Mark the 13th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these
things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and
earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the
Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will
come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves
in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house
will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may
find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake.”

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, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer, Steve Yohn, Patti NIemond, the Rankin family, Joyce Jimenez and the Call Committee.

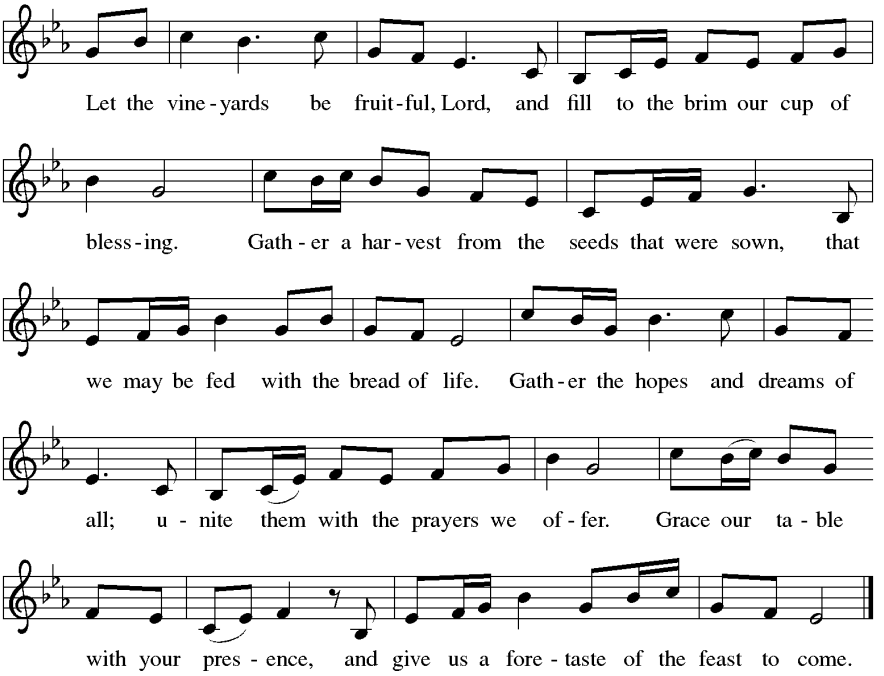
*To have someone added to the Prayer Guide-with their permission-please contact the church office.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
The petitions end with: "God, 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."**

MEAL *Please continue to stand.*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



OFFERING PRAYER
Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

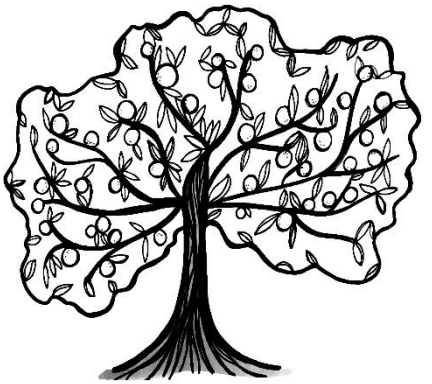
Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

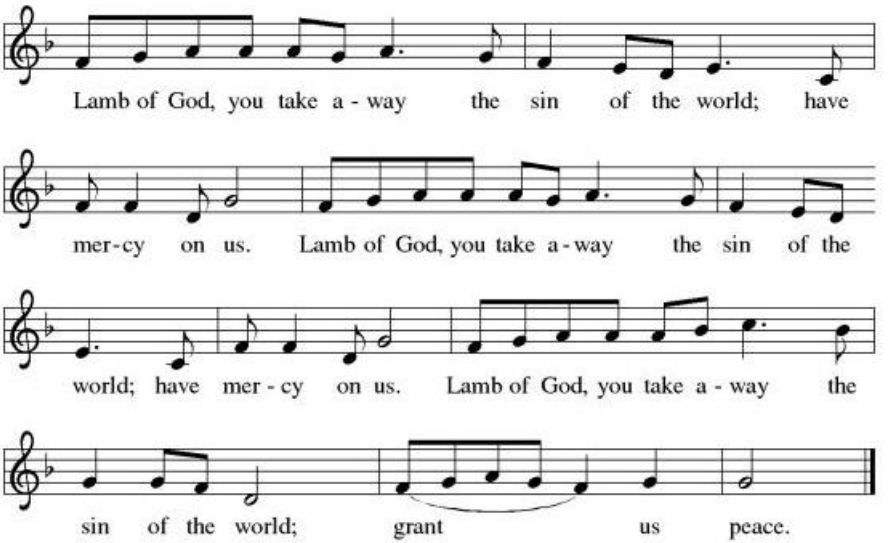
The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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 glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.



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
Jerry Stone – Flute

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Plainsong, Arr. By Mary McDonald, 2018 Lorenz Pub. Co.
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" "Geistliche Kirchengeang", 1599, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2007 Lorenz Pub. Co.
"Mary, Did You Know?" Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry, Arr. Joel Raney, 2003 Word Music Inc.

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
Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING
The Lord's face Shine on you with grace and mercy.
Amen.

Sending Hymn **ELW pg. #260 "The King Shall Come"**

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Christ, Be Our Light" (#715 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Pam and Mark Fultz in honor of their grandsons Trenton and Wyatt Showers from Papa and Nana.
THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Jennie McCardle in Thankful of the season.
THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in loving memory of their dear friend Kelli Rhodes from Pam and Mark Fultz.
THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Becky Yeater in memory of loved ones.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

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.

ATTENTION: COOKIE BAKERS & FUDGE MAKERS are needed for this year's Festival of Ice Cookie Walk. Best sellers include chocolate & peanut butter fudge, snickerdoodles, peanut butter cookies, peanut blossoms, orange creamsicle and sugar cookies. This year's Festival of Ice theme is "American Adventure". **Donations can be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, December 2nd from 9 AM – 4 PM and from 9 AM to Noon on Thursday, December 3rd.** The Cookie Walk will be held at the Old Mifflin County Courthouse Thursday, December 3rd & Friday, December 4th from 5-9 PM. Contact Carrie Thierwechter at (717) 994-5615 if you have any questions. **Please label your donations with your name and what you've made.** All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support of this St. John's tradition.

ATTENTION: If you haven't been contacted by the Cookie Walk Committee yet, there's a good chance we don't have your cell number. If you are interested in donating to the Cookie Walk there will be a **sign-up sheet** at the front of the sanctuary on **Sunday, November 29th.**

MEET & EAT ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, December 1st** at 12-Noon. The ladies will be lunching at The Bread of Life in McAlisterville. Please call Jennie McCardle if you are in need of a ride at 717-248-1327.

DONATION BASKETS The Shining Light through the Darkness provides nightly refreshments for residents attending the festivities throughout the season. Giving baskets will be placed in the sanctuary to benefit the Snack Shack and start up food costs. Thank you for your continued support within the community.

THE LUMINA CENTER is selling cookies and pies made by E&L Baked Goods. The sign-up sheet is located on the church window with details or please see Janet Deamer. The **deadline** for orders is **Wednesday, December 2nd** and the **pick-up** date is **Wednesday, December 16th**. Thank you for supporting the children, youth and families of Mifflin County!

BARNABAS BROTHERS: We will be setting up or nativity display in the green pavilion at Kish Park on **Saturday morning, December 5th**. Please meet at the church at 8:00am Saturday morning to load the items for transport to the park, followed by set-up. This should take about an hour or less. Thank you to all who can help.

POINSETTIAS!! It's time to order Poinsettias! Poinsettia color choices are white, red, pink, and jingle bell. The **cost is $10.00** per flower. Order forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please put completed forms and payment in the lock box. **Orders due December 6, 2026.**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH will be hosting **"Messiah" Sunday, December 6th** at 3:00pm with Fred Benner as the Conductor. Rehearsals will be on Sunday's at 3:00pm

beginning on **November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**. Any singers who are interested please join us!

FELLOWSHIP The Barnabas Brothers are proudly providing refreshments **after** the "Messiah" program on **Sunday, December 6th**. Refreshments will include ham and chicken salad sandwiches plus cake and beverages. We anticipate **80 to 90** recital attendees participating in a special time of Christian Fellowship. We respectfully request that congregation members bring a dessert or snack item to assist the Barnabas Brothers in providing refreshments for this special church and community event praising Our Lord and Savior.

PRACTICE for the Children's Christmas play will be on **Saturday, December 12th** at 10:00am followed by pizza party at 11am. Please call Nikki Hidlay with any questions at 717-994-6058.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th St. John's Lutheran Church is scheduled to operate all the stations of Shining Light Through the Darkness at Kish Park from 5pm to 9pm. Two assigned shifts 5-7pm and 7-9pm, will be listed for the Snack Shack, Train Room, Golf Cart and Greeters on the bridge. The Barnabas Brothers will provide bags of candy treats with Merry Christmas greetings and St. John's Worship Schedule to all children visiting Shining Light Through the Darkness. Please plan to sign up on the schedule posted on the office window, food donations are welcome for the Snack Shack and can be placed in the church kitchen. Thanks, the Barnabas Brothers.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY and Evangelism Committees will be sponsoring home delivered meals monthly for our shut-ins or any older member who doesn't cook much and would like a meal! We would also like to deliver to anyone with a recent illness etc. Please let Nikki Hidlay, Norma Fisher or the office know if you would like to be added to the delivery list. Meals will be ready for delivery after church on Sundays so can be taken home then as well. If members know of a neighbor or congregational member that would benefit from this ministry, please add them to the list! Upcoming deliver date is **Sunday, December 13th.** If you would like to help make food or delivery meals and haven't signed up yet, please see Nikki or text me at 717-994-6058. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE St. John's Lutheran Church and the Red Cross is having a blood drive at the church on **Tuesday, December 15th** from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. During the holiday season the need for blood goes up 25% nationwide. For more information there are flyers on the resource table. "Save a Life! Donate today!"

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED the Personnel Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in opening and closing the church on Sundays. If you would like to help out or have a question as to what would need completed, please see Adele Craig, Ed Stewart or Hillary Worley.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows:12/06, 01/10, 02/07, 03/07, 04/04, 05/02. All are welcome!

4th QUARTER OFFERING has been designated for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING has been designated for 1/2 camperships and 1/2 energy bank.

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.

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

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 Tuesday, **December 8th, 2026**. Thank you.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **November/December** are holiday meal items such as canned ham, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, pie filling, pie crust mix, cake mixes and icing.

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.



December 6 [Second Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play
December 13 [Third Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
December 20 [Fourth Sunday of Advent] 9:00am, 10:15am Sunday School
December 24 [Nativity of Our Lord] Christmas Eve 8:00pm
December 27 [First Sunday of Christmas] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
January 3 [Second Sunday after Christmas] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
January 10 [Baptism of Our Lord) 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play
January 17 [Second Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)
Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm

Reminders for December
Acolytes – Anderson Bitner, Jackson Druckenmiller
Altar Guild Volunteers – Tracey Boyer, Pam Fultz, Janet Deamer
Communion Assistants – Scott Price crucifer, Scott Welham, Gisele Miller
Ushers – Norma Fisher head, Dennis Crossgrover, Hillary Worley
Money Counters – Barry Stuck, Susan Phillips
Lay Lectors
December 6 – Hillary Worley
December 13 – Youth
December 20 – Cantata
December 24 – TBA
December 27 – Tom Beaver

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark*