

## **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

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

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

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

[www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA](http://www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA)

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**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Second Sunday of Easter / Setting 3***

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# Easter Cantata

### **INTRODUCTION**

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

**WELCOME** to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person. We are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers and care for those in Need.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is served by a 2-line procession down the center aisle. We will celebrate with bread, wine, or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

**GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S** Offering plates are located at each entrance. If you prefer to give electronically, visit our website, and click on the **E-Giving Tab**. Use your existing login information. For new users, search for St John's Lutheran Church Lewistown. Information on **E-Giving** is available on the SJLC resource table. Thank you for your continued support.

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR**, we would like to get to know you. Please fill out a visitor's card from the pew rack and place it on the offering plate at the entrances. May Christ's spirit be with each and every one of us in our congregational life and faith journey.

**LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOKLETS** are available, please see a door greeter.

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Pastor* – Rev. Allen Hulslander

*Acolytes* – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Pam Tressler, Katrina Martin, Meagan Earnest

*Cantor* – Andrew Thierwechter

*Communion Assistants* – Scott Price, Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer

*Crucifer* – Scott Price

*Ushers* – Scott Welham – head usher, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" Arthur S. Sullivan, Arr. Edward Broughton, 1972 Lorenz Pub. Co.

### **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.*

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Holy Baptism**

**PRESENTATION**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

I present **Blair Noble Bennett** for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Blair baptized into Christ?

**Sponsors: We do.**

As you bring Blair to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God’s faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that she may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Blair grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Sponsors: We do.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Blair and pray for her  
in her new life in Christ?

**Response: We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the  
faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate.*

Blair Noble, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:*  
Sustain Blair with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*  
Blair, **as a** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome Blair Noble Bennett.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE** *All children are invited forward*

### **Chancel Choir Cantata**

**"I Am the Lord of the Dance"**

Shaker Melody, 19<sup>th</sup> C. Sydney Carter Joel Raney 1963 & 2013 Stainer & Bell. L=td.  
(admin. Hope Pub. Co.)

**Sopranos:** Josie Baughman, Dr. Patty Farley, Nikki Hidlay, Ava Kelly, Geneva Kelly, Deb Kling, Sharon Marsh, Gisele Miller and Nellie Wilson.

**Altos:** Mary Barr, Terri Limes, Mina Phillips, Cora Rankin, Melissa Rosenberry, Sue Shawver, Carrie Stufft and Hillary Worley.

**Tenors:** Allen Mengel, Dave Phillips and Peter Marsh

**Basses:** Jim Rosenberry, Scott Welham and Andrew Thierwechter.

**Narrators:** Ed Deamer

“I Danced in the Morning”

“Fairest Lord Jesus” Music: “Schlesische Volkslieder, “1842 Words by Gesangbuch, “Munster,” 1677 with “Savior, like a Shepherd Led Us” William Bradbury & Dorothy Thrupp

“I Danced for the Scribe and the Pharisee”

“I Want to Jesus to Walk with Me” Spiritual

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, Words by William R. Featherstone

“I Danced on the Sabbath”

**Solo – Josie Baughman**

“Remember Me” Spiritual

“I Danced on a Friday”

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” Music by William H. Walter, words by Washington Gladden and Issac Watts

“On the Third Day” (Instrumental and Narrator)

“I Am the Lord of The Dance”



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "Merciful God."

And the Congregational response is:

**"receive our prayer"**

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.

## 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*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 (spoken)

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

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

## INVITATION

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**

“Because He Lives” William J. and Gloria Gaither, Arr. Carol Tornquist 1971 William J. Gaither, Inc.

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” and “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” with “Trumpet Voluntary” George J. Elvey/John Darwall/Jeremiah Clarke, Arr. Marilyn Ham 2003 Alfred Pub. Co., Inc.

“We Will Glorify” Twila Paris, Arr. Lloyd Larson 1982 Singspiration 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.**

**Recessional Hymn**

**ELW pg.#635 “We Walk by Faith”**

During the extinguishing of candles.  
The Congregation will sing.

## Benediction

Words by  
WILLIAM R.  
FEATHERSTONE

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

GORDON  
Music by  
ADONIRAM J. GORDON

**Congregation**  
(on cue)



1. My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art  
2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed



mine, for thee all the fol - lies of  
me, and pur - chased my par - don on



sin I re - sign; my gra - cious Re -  
Cal - va - ry's tree; I love thee for



deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou; \_\_\_\_\_ if  
wear - ing the thorns on thy brow; \_\_\_\_\_



ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

### 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**

**THE PINK ROSE** on the altar is in honor of the baptism of Blair Noble Bennett today April 12<sup>th</sup>. We love you! Nene, Pappy, and family.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Pam Tressler in honor of her grandchildren Elianna, Vivienne, Laykelyn, and Maverick.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Jennifer Blessing in memory of her mother Ella Mae Blessing.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in honor of their parents by Sue and Mike Shawver.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Kathy and Jeff Limes in memory of Don Limes.

### **ST. JOHN'S NEWS**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE** the baptism of Blair Noble Bennett. The daughter of Samantha and Kyle Bennett.

**THE OFFICE** will be closed on **Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** from 10am to noon. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**THE BARNABAS BROTHERS'** breakfast meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 8am in the Church Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend a morning of Christian Fellowship, King's Breakfast and a dynamic presentation by Jimmy Conway, Community Outreach Specialist with the Pa. Game Commission speaking on the Pa. Whitetail Deer. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any Barnabas Brother.

**THE MOTHER DAUGHTER** banquet dinner will be on **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults, Children 6 to 12, \$4.00, and under age 6 free. Tickets are available to purchase in the church office starting on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be more information about the banquet to come.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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

**SJLC COUNCIL** members who are recently coming off council, please be sure and turn in your key to the office or to Hillary Worley as soon as possible.

**THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** Committee is looking for someone to represent SJLC Bible School meetings bringing information back so we can stay involved. Meetings have begun so we are looking to pass on a new representative as soon as possible. Interested parties, please see Hillary Worley.

**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.

**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.

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. 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.

**WEATHER ALERT** If the Mifflin County School District is delayed, closed, or closing due to snow and ice, the SJLC Office and all activities in the church facility will be postponed or cancelled.

### **COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS**

**WELCA** meeting is **today** following worship.

**SJLC COUNCIL MEETING** on **Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **April** are dish detergent, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products and hand turn can openers.

**HAM SANDWICH SALE change of date** is now **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**. Orders are due by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the church window. Please see Janet Deamer with any questions.

## Worship SCHEDULE

April 19 [Third Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
April 26 [Fourth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
May 3 [Fifth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
May 10 [Sixth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
May 17 [Seventh Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

### **Meetings (Please see above for details)**

Tue. April 28<sup>th</sup> 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 April**

**Acolytes** – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Pam Tressler, Katrina Martin, Meagan Earnest

**Communion Assistants** – Scott Price – crucifer, Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer

**Ushers** – Scott Welham – head, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

**Money Counters** – Barry Stuck, Susan Phillips

### **Lay Lectors**

April 19 – Jim Rosenberry

April 26 – Hillary Worley

**Next Sunday's Readings:** *Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35*