

# 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, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:00AM ✦ *Baptism of Our Lord/Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

**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. Charles Hershberger

*Acolytes* – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Gloria Stewart, Jennie McCardle, Mariah King

*Cantor* – Mina Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Scott Price, Jenna Dudukovich, Terri Limes

*Crucifer* – Scott Price

*Lay Reader* – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips, Jameson Phillips

*Ushers* – Anderson Bitner, Geneva Kelly, Kyle Treaster

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Shall We Gather at the River?" Robert Lowry, Arr. Joel Raney, 1998 Hope 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.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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, by your Word, you created the world, calling forth life, in which you took delight.

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 Christ Jesus and our new life in him.

To you be given honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Processional Hymn

## ELW #304 "Christ, When for Us You were Baptized"

## 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 page #138 Setting 3

## Canticle of Praise (*Congregation*)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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.*

## WORD

### First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

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

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

## **Psalm: Psalm 29**

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**

**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for evermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### **Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

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

### **Special Music**

"Song over the Waters" Marty Haugen, 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

**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 Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

**Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead, he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well

After the reading ...

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Nicene Creed**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions ends with: "God of Grace"

And the Congregational response is:

**"hear 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, Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Martha Liebegott, Peter Marsh, 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

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**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....and  
join their unending hymn (sung):

**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.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, .....

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.**

With this bread and cup, .....We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among.....Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One.....one God, 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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### 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**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” Spiritual, Arr. Cindy Berry, 2015 Alfred Music  
“Every Time I Feel the Spirit” Spiritual, Arr. Calvin Taylor, 2007 Alfred Pub., Co., Inc.  
“Wade in the Water” Spiritual, Arr. Calvin Taylor, 2007 Alfred Pub. Co., 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**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

**ELW #543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “Oh, Love, How Deep” (#322 in our Hymnal)**

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## DEDICATIONS

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Dave Borland Jr. in loving memory of his parents Isabel and Dave Borland Sr.

**THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BASKET** is presented by Hillary and Josh Pennepacker in honor of Mara's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Brenda Reeder in honor of her children and grandchildren.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in honor of loved ones by Norma Fisher.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Chris and Collette Croyle in honor of Pastor Hulslander for his commitment and dedication to the St. John's family.

## ST. JOHN'S NEWS

**PASTOR ALLEN AND JOY** will be on vacation from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have a pastoral need please contact the office or Pastor Charles Hershberger. His telephone number is 717-248-3420 or 717-250-2215

**THE BARNABAS BROTHERS** breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8am at the Church Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker is Mr. Rick Esh, Representative from the Central Pa. Meat Canning Project which coordinates the Meat Canning Project which feeds area residents in addition to individuals throughout the Commonwealth, Nationally and Internationally. The Meat Canning Project was initially founded with Committee Meetings at St. John's Lutheran Church with Founding Member Mr. Max Hook and then supported by dedicated Member Mr. William H. Logan, Jr. Please plan to attend the Breakfast Meeting for a morning of Christian Fellowship, King's Breakfast and dynamic Speaker. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Burk at 717-250-7410. Thanks Respectfully, Steve Burk

**THE SHINING LIGHT** Through The Darkness Committee is hosting a Volunteer Thank You Banquet on January 20, 2025, at 6pm at the Reedsville Fire Company, 16 Firehouse Blvd. Reedsville. St. John's Lutheran Church and the Barnabas Brothers are big supporters of Shining Light Through The Darkness by decorating the Green Pavilion Nativity Scene plus the Brown and Gray Pavilions with existing Christmas decorations donated by the Congregation. Additionally, the Barnabas Brothers traditionally donate \$500.00 annually to support Shining Light Through The Darkness plus Members donate financially for food items to the Snack Shack. Congregational Members also volunteer to operate the various activities each year on a scheduled Sunday in December. Please consider attending the Banquet which consists of a buffet meal, musical entertainment and a Video presentation of this year's event recognizing sponsors that include St. John's Lutheran Church and the Barnabas Brothers. If you have any questions please contact Steve Burk, at 717-250-7410. RSVP's for St. John's Lutheran Church Members have already been submitted based on previous year's attendance.

**2025 BUDGET** There are draft copies of the 2025 Budget on the resource table in the Fellowship Hall.

**ADDITIONAL DATES** have opened up for sponsorship: **Altar Flowers** (typically \$40-50, billed directly by florist) are **July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eternal Candle August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The sign-up sheet is on the office window.

**2025 OFFERING ENEVELOPES** are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

**DESIGNATED OFFERINGS** 4th Quarter Special Offering will go towards Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

**SOLES 4 SOULS** A reminder. A box is in the lobby for any shoe donations.

**GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL** (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **2024/2025** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

**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**

**THE WELCA** meeting is on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Parlor Room at 10:00am

**THE FINANCE COMMITTEE** meeting is on Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 6:30pm.

**THE SJLC COUNCIL** reorganization meeting is on Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30pm.

**PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP** Needs sheets (slightly used ok). Deliver to quilt room.

**MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD** items for **January/February** are tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, & tea bags.

# Worship SCHEDULE

January 19 [Second Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
January 26 [Third Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
February 2 [Presentation of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
February 9 [Fifth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am, Worship 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play

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

Sun. 1/12 WELCA meeting in the Parlor Room today at 10:00am.  
Thu. 1/23 Finance Committee meeting at 6:30pm.  
Mon. 1/27 Council meeting at 6:30pm.

## **Choir Rehearsal Schedules for January**

**TBA**

## **Reminders for January**

**Acolytes** – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Gloria Stewart, Jennie McCardle, Mariah King

**Communion Assistants** – Scott Price, Jenna Dudukovich, Terri Limes

**Crucifer** – Scott Price

**Ushers** – Ed Stewart – head usher, Pam Tressler, Gloria Stewart

**Money Counters** – Andrew Thierwechter, Gloria Stewart

**Lay Lectors 1/19 Joyce Tanner, 1/26 Sue Shawver**

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11*