

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
stjohnslewisown@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.stjohnslewisown.com>

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

Sunday, April 14th, 2024, 9:00 AM ✦ *Third Sunday of Easter / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

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

Ushers – Anderson Bitner, Dorian and Leif Phillips

Cantor – Mina Phillips

Lay Lectors – Geneva Kelly, Jameson Phillips, and Korey Treaster

Communion Assistants – Glen Hetrick, Terri Limes, and Sue Shawver

Crucifer – Glen Hetrick

Acolytes – Cora Rankin and Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Judy Spencer, Katrina Martin, and Megan Earnest

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM “Song of Peace” A Partner Song with “Dona Nobis Pacem” Mary Donnelly, Arr. George L.O. Strid, 1991 Alfred Pub. Co., Inc.

Youth Praise and Worship Choir

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 4

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

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

Special Music

“Peace Like A River” Marvin V. Frey, 1974 Marvin V. Frey

Celeste Choir

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, the Luke the, 24th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b} Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and

to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

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 into hell.
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: "God of Grace".
And the Congregational response is:
"hear our prayer."

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,
Tracy Loucks, Jack Stull, Toby
Sweigart, Dave Treaster, Dave
Borland, 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
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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life.... Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places.... 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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

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

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” (Prayer of St. Francis) Sebastian Temple, Arr. Jane Holstein, 2006 OCP Pub.

“Wonderful Peace” W.G. Cooper, Arr. Michael Wilson, 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“How Beautiful” Twila Paris, Arr. Paris, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2001 Ariose Music a div. of StarSong

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

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW pg. #367 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “The Joyful Eastertide” (#391 in our Hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2024 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 Pam and Tim Tressler to the Glory of God.
TODAY'S BULLETINS are presented by Ella Mae Blessing in loving memory of John Blessing.
THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of loved ones by Dawn and Steve Palm.
THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Jeff and Kathy Limes in memory of Don Limes.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 1st Quarter Special Offering-Central Pa. World Hunger Association Meat Canning Project (Max Hook past member). Lenten Special Offering-Rainbow Summer. Easter Special Offering-St. John's Organ refurbishment fund.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (Start the Party!) Request for Volunteers to help with games (and a snack evening) for VBS at Grace United Methodist Church June 23-27 6-8pm. Interested persons may contact Jeanne Hendricks 412-303-4054. For children wishing to attend VBS, please see posted flyers for registration details.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 04/14, 05/12. All are welcome!

THE LUMINA CENTER is selling their yearly Community Restaurant Discount Cards. 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.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC meeting is Tuesday April 16th, 2024, at 6:00pm.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE meeting is Tuesday April 16th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting is Thursday April 18th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday April 20th, starting at 8:00am with a King's Breakfast, dynamic Speaker, and morning of Christian Fellowship. Mr. Bob Richards, Representative from Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, will discuss the ministry conducted at the food pantry that serves 1 out of 5 Mifflin Countians facing food insecurity and life's struggles to feed themselves. St. John's Lutheran Church and the Barnabas Brothers are proud supporters of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard as they support Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. All Men of the Church are cordially invited to attend the breakfast and hear more about Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Please contact Steve Burk, at 717-250-7410, with any questions or concerns.

THE WELCA meeting is Sunday April 21st, 2024, at 10:00am.

THE COUNCIL MEETING is Monday April 22nd, 2024, at 6:30pm.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS AND ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH proudly host the Mifflin County Veterans Organization Meeting on Thursday April 25th, at 6pm at the Church Fellowship Hall. All Veterans and their Spouses are cordially invited to attend this event that includes Light Refreshments, a night of Military Comrade and dynamic Speakers. This month the Speakers will be the Honorable Mifflin County Commissioners. Please consider supporting the Mifflin County Veterans Organization. Attendance is averaging over 50 Veterans. Thanks for Your Service. If you have any questions please contact Steve Burk, at 717-250-741

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS are proud to announce that the annual Mother & Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday May 11, 2024, at the Church Fellowship Hall with Social Hour from 5:30pm to 6pm and dinner served at 6pm. We are honored to announce that Chef Katherine Jackson, Daughter of Church Member Ed Aurand has agreed to prepare the meal with assistance from the Barnabas Brothers. We are so appreciative of Katherine who travels in from the Pittsburgh area and offers her culinary skills for this very special occasion. Entertainment following the banquet will be held in the Church sanctuary with a musical performance by the band Flipside which consists of Grace and Rhonda performing a great selection of music with accompaniment by audience participation playing a variety of musical instruments. Tickets are available at the Church Office with the cost of adult tickets- \$8 dollars, children ages 6-12, \$4 dollars and under age 6 free. Tickets must be purchased by Monday May 6th, to prepare for the banquet. Please consider attending the Mother & Daughter Banquet for a great night of Christian Fellowship. Please contact Steve Burk, at 250-7410, with any questions or concerns.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for April are dish detergent, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, and hand turn can openers.

HAM SANDWICH SALE is the second Friday of every month. Orders are due the Tuesday before. Please see Mary Barr for more information.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

April 21 [Fourth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

April 28 [Fifth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

May 5 [Sixth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

May 12 [Seventh Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play

May 19 [Day of Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

04/16 Tue. Worship & Music meeting at 6:00pm.

04/16 Tue. Property Committee meeting at 6:30pm

04/20 Sat. Barnabas Brothers Breakfast at 8:00am.

04/21 Sun. WELCA meeting at 10:00am.

04/22 Mon. Council Meeting at 6:30pm.

04/25 Thu. MC Veterans Organization meeting at 6:00pm.

04/17,04/24 Wed. Choir Practice.

Reminders for April

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Judy Spencer, Katrina Martin, and Megan Earnest

Communion Assistants – Glen Hetrick (crucifer), Terri Limes, Sue Shawver

Crucifer – Glen Hetrick

Ushers – Scott Welham (head usher), Robyn Mertz, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Barry Stuck, Susan Phillips

Reminders for May

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Anderson Bitner

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Verna Moist, Patti Niemond

Communion Assistants – Tom Beaver, Hillary Worley-book bearer, Mary Barr

Crucifer – Tom Beaver

Ushers – Dennis Noble (head usher), Sandy Noble, Gloria Stewart

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Deb Kling

Next Sunday's Readings: *Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18*