

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, December 14th, 2025, *Third Sunday of Advent* 9:00AM /Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

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 – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz, Janet Deamer, Tracey Boyer

Cantor – Mina Phillips

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Mary Barr, Gisele Miller

Crucifer – Justice Mills

Ushers – Anderson Bitner, Kiersten Treaster, Kyle Treaster

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Jingle Bells" James Pierpont 1984 Price Stern Sloan Inc.

Sunday School Children

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING The Candle of Joy.

*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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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.

Hymn of Praise

The Annunciation & Magnificat

Inside back of hymnal.

Cantor (Annunciation) & Congregation

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

“Christmas Around the World” Rhonda Frazier, Ed Kee and Jonathon Willis, 2006
Brentwood-Benson Music Pub.

Narrators

Kiersten Treaster, Jameson Phillips, Leif Phillips,
Dorian Phillips, Kyle Treaster

Shepherds

Carl King and Gabe Bridgens

Kings

Jackson Druckenmiller and Gavin Martin

Angel

Anna Bridgens

Mary

Charolette King

Jospeh

Anderson Bitner

“Our Promised King Is Born” Dave Williamson 1992 New Spring, division of Zomba Enterprises

Mina Phillips – Vocal

Narration

“Joy to the World!” George Frederick Handel and Issac Watts, 2006 New Spring,
division of Zomba Enterprises

#267 verses 1, 2, 4 with Congregation

Narration

“Jesus, Born in Bethlehem” Ed Kee 2006 New Spring, division of Zomba Enterprises
Mina Phillips – Vocal

Narration

“Away In a Manger” James R. Murray 2006 New Spring, division of Zomba Enterprises
Sunday School Children

Narration

“We Three Kings” John H. Hopkins, Jr. 2006 New Spring, division of Zomba Enterprises
Jameson Phillips – Vocal

Narration

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” John Francis Wade 2006 New Spring, division of Zomba Enterprises
#283 verse 1 with Congregation

Narration

“Spread a Little Love” Dave & Jan Williamson 1992 New Spring, Division of Zomba Enterprises
Kiersten Treaster – Vocal

Narration

“Our Promised King Is Born” (Reprise) Dave Williamson 1992 New Spring division, of Zomba Enterprises
Mina Phillips – Vocal



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end 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,
Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull, Larry
Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail Ingram,
Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson, Joanne
Troutman, Darlene Vamer, Toby
Sweigart, Freda Hook, Lou
Sonnenberg, and the Call
Committee.

*To have someone added to the
Prayer Guide-with their permission-

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

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

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.**

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, 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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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

“Mary, Did You Know?” Mark Lowery and Buddy Green, Arr. Tim Doran, 1991 Word Music
“O Magnify the Lord” Dick and Melodie Tunney, Arr. Tim Doran, 1982 Meadowgreen Music Co.
“And the Glory of the Lord” from “Messiah” G. F. Handel, Arr. Thomas Chesterton, 1991
Lorenz Pub. Co.

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

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #253 “He Came Down”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” (#263 in our hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2025 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 Nancy Maguire in memory of her parents Ann and Joseph Arbogast.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Jennie McCardle in loving memory of Martha Gregg.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of their grandchildren by Janet and Ed Deamer.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Josh and Hillary Pennepacker in honor of their anniversary.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

FELLOWSHIP HOUR following the Children's Christmas Program is **today December 14th**.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH will operate all activities at Shining Light Through The Darkness on **Sunday, December 14th, from 5pm to 9pm** at Kish Park. These activities include operating Snack Shack, Train Room, Golf Cart Driver and Greeters on the Bridge. Barnabas Brothers will provide treat bags to all Children entering Shining Light Through The Darkness with the St. John's Lutheran Church address and service schedule printed on markers. Baked goods are being accepted from the Congregation for distribution at the Snack Shack. A **sign-up** sheet will be posted on the church office window for the various positions with two available **shifts from 5 to 7pm and 7 to 9pm**. Shining Light Through The Darkness serving Our Community since 2007, praising Our Lord and Savior. God's Work Our Hands. If you have any questions, please contact any Barnabas Brother.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS As we enter the Christmas season, we have the opportunity to show our love and appreciation for our dedicated pastor and staff. If you would like to make a donation towards the gifts, envelopes have been placed at each entrance. The last day to donate will be **today December 14th**.

PASTOR ALLEN will be out of the office on **Tuesday, December 16th**.

BLOOD DRIVE The Red Cross and SJL Church will be having a blood drive on **Tuesday, December 16th**. The blood mobile will be at the church **from Noon-5:00pm**. **“One donation can save up to 3 lives!”**

THE CHRISTMAS EVE bulletin will be **printed on Friday, December 19th**. Please submit information for that bulletin by 10:00am on Thursday, December 18th.

THE SJLC OFFICE will be closed Thursday, December 25th, Friday, December 26th and Thursday January 1st for the holidays. Please submit information for the December 28th bulletin by 10:00am on Wednesday, December 24th.

THE SALVATION ARMY Red Kettle will be placed in the Fellowship Hall starting this **Sunday through January 1st**. Please consider supporting the Salvation Army as they help area residents this Holiday Season. The Barnabas Brothers plan to fill the Kettle with a \$100.00 donation to help Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

MEET & EAT first ladies luncheon of 2026 will be **Tuesday, January 6th** at **SJL Church** for pizza and games. Please arrive at 11:30am to place pizza order.

SPONSOR DATES There are available dates to sponsor altar flowers, bulletins, and eternal candles in **2026**. A sign-up sheet is on the office window.

NO CHOIR PRACTICES on Wednesday December 24th Christmas Eve Service and Wednesday December 31st. Choir starts back up on **January 7th, 2026**.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER Campaign is seeking donations. Your gifts help the response to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. If interested in donating to the campaign, you can simply mark it on your offering envelope. Don't have an offering envelope? Simply put your donation in a blank envelope labeled World Hunger Campaign.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you go through the via electronic giving or bank/retirement fund check and wish to have envelopes for the Special Offerings please contact Sue Shawver.

GODLY PLAY is an amazing experience for all ages where scriptures and parables "come alive" where children learn and experience their own spirituality through wonder and play. Godly Play will meet after services in the Godly Playroom in the Sunday School wing. The dates are as follows: **Sunday, January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th**. All are welcome!

FOURTH QUARTER SPECIAL OFFERING will go towards Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING will go towards Camper Scholarships at Camp Mount Luther.

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. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

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

SJLC COUNCIL is not meeting in December. The next council meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 6th, 2026** at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for **December** are **Holiday Meal** items such as: canned ham, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, pie filling, pie crust mix, cake mix, and icing.

REMINDER to submit your yearly report for the SJLC annual report and thank those who have submitted theirs. It's greatly appreciated!

Worship SCHEDULE

December 21 [Fourth Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

December 24 [Nativity of Our Lord I] 7:45pm Prelude, 8:00pm Service

December 28 [First Sunday of Christmas] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

January 4 [Second Sunday of Christmas] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

January 11 [Baptism of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Wed. 12/17 Chancel Choir practice 6:30pm-8:00pm

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Sun. 01/11, 02/8, 03/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Play Sunday School

Tue. 01/06/26 SJLC Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Reminders for December

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz, Janet Deamer, Tracey Boyer

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills – crucifer, Mary Barr, Gisele Miller

Ushers – Norma Fisher – head, Dennis Crossgrove, Hillary Worley

Money Counters – Barry Stuck, Sue Phillips

Lay Lectors

December 21 – Cantata

December 28 – Tom Beaver

Christmas Eve

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guilds – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz, Janet Deamer

Communion Assistants – Scott Price – crucifer, Dave Phillips – book bearer, Sue Shawver

Ushers – Norma Fisher – head, Dennis Crossgrove, Hillary Worley

Lay Lector – Ed Deamer

Next Sunday Readings: *Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25*

