

# 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, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

**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.

## **RALLY DAY!**

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Bishop* – Rev. Craig Miller

*Interim Pastor* – Rev. Allen Hulslander

*Acolytes* – Jameson Phillips, Dorian Phillips

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Kathy Limes, Nancy Craig, Becky Yeater

*Cantor* – Bishop Miller

*Communion Assistants* – Justice Mills, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

*Crucifer* – Justice Mills

*Lay Reader* – Mina Phillips, Kiersten Treaster, Anderson Bitner

*Ushers* – Dorain Phillips, Jameson Phillips, Leif Phillips

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" John Wyeth's "Repository of Sacred Music" 1813, Arr. Joel Raney, 2022 Hope pub. Co.

**Handbell Quartet: Josie Baughman, Peter and Sharon Marsh, Ali Treaster**

## **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.*

### **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,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.**

**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**Amen.**

### **Processional Hymn**

**ELW #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"**

## **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**

### **This is the Feast**

**ELW page #140 Setting 3**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Special Music**

“I’ll Trust in You” Angie Killian, 2021 Angie Killian

**Geneva Kelly - solo**

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

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14**

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today’s reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God’s own people and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them

from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

## Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God

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

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

### Special Music

“Take My Life, Lord” with “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” words by Frances R. Havergal, Music by Anna Laura Page; words by Washington Gladden, Music by H. Percy Smith, 2000 Alfred Pub. Co.

**Chancel Choir with Jerry Stone – flute**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-10**

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Bishop Miller**

**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.**

## **Introduction and Dedication of The Christian Education Department**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The petitions end with: “*God of Grace*”

And the Congregational response is:

**“receive our prayer”**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,  
Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Peter  
Marsh, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss,  
Nellie Wilson, Joanne Troutman,  
Darlene Varner, Toby Sweigart,  
Freda Hook, and the Call  
Committee.

### **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.

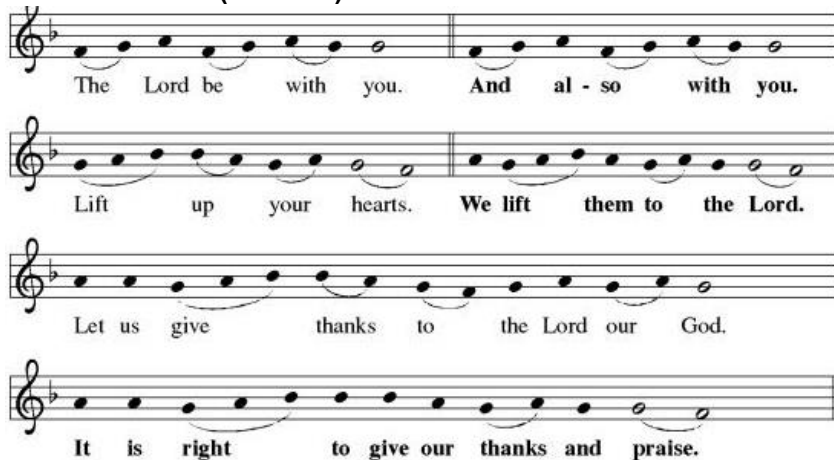
The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from 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

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING (intoned)



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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer (SUNG)** Inside back cover of Hymnal.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

## 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

**Jerry Stone – flute**

“Shall We Gather at the River?” Robert Lowry, Arr. Joel Raney, 2019 Hope Pub. Co.

“Be thou My Vision” Irish Melody, Arr. Joel Raney, 2019 Hope pub. Co.

“This Is My Father’s World” English Melody, Arr. Brent Olstad, 1999 Ron Harris Music

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

### *Sending*

## BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW #789 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

### **Silent Meditation**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (#502 in our hymnal)

**Jerry Stone - flute**

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### **DEDICATIONS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Ed Aurand in honor of loved ones.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Paula and Charlie Hershberger to the Glory of God and St. John's congregation.

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

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Gloria Stewart in honor of the church family.

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

**BISHOP** Craig Miller is with us **today, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. He will be leading worship and preaching.

**TODAY** we are recognizing and dedicating the Christian Education Department.

Christian Education Chairs – Hillary Worley, Nancy Craig.

Adult Sunday School Teachers – Dave Ray, David Phillips.

Godly Play Teachers – Jeanne Hendricks, Assistant Megan Earnest.

Elementary Class Teachers – April Montgomery, Assistant Anne Spicer.

Nursery Coordinator – Nikki Hidlay

**RALLY DAY** today. There will be a brunch after worship in fellowship hall.

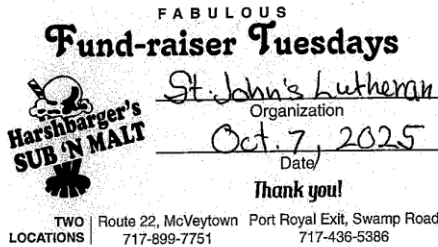
**THE SJLC** office will be **closed** on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**THE BARNABAS BROTHERS'** breakfast meetings resume on **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am in the fellowship hall**. This meeting will be a business meeting to address the planned activities and projects for the year supporting SJLC, community groups and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please plan on attending the Christian Fellowship and a Kings breakfast. Please contact Steve Burk with any questions.

**ATTENTION** Flower, Bulletin, and Eternal Candle Sponsors. Be on the lookout late September/early October for a letter detailing your sponsorship for 2026. The office staff is respectfully asking that you complete the form enclosed to reserve your sponsorship. Thanks for your cooperation and for your support of St. John's.

**SEAFARER BAGS** It's that time of year that our Women of the ELCA group are putting together gift bags for our Seafarers over the Christmas holiday. The bags with instructions can be found on the table in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are providing knitted and crochet hats for all bags. They also need a **sweatshirt** and pullover **T-shirt** of the same size, **3 pair** of socks, one **can of nuts or a large candy** bar as well as a **Christmas card** from you. Please refer to the information which is in each bag. Bags must be returned by **October 26<sup>th</sup>** as they will be blessed during worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Hulslander or Paula Hershberger.

**MEET & EAT** ladies' luncheon and yearly fundraiser will be on **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** at 12-Noon at Harshbarger's in Port Royal. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant.



**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 Play room in the Sunday School wing. The dates are as follows: **Sundays October 12<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>, January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and May 10<sup>th</sup>.** All are welcome!

**NURSERY COVERAGE** for the coming year. Anyone planning to provide Nursery coverage for the upcoming year must have their clearance on file with the church. To be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy all volunteers who work with, and around anyone under the age of 18 need to have their PA Criminal Background and Child Abuse Clearance completed and on file with the church. All clearances are given to Nikki Hidlay and Hillary Worley who will pass them onto the office. If you are uncertain if you have your clearances, please reach out to the SJLC office.

**ORGAN FUND** There is now an option through Vanco (on-line giving) for donations to go towards the organ fund.

**THIRD QUARTER SPECIAL OFFERING** will go towards the Energy Bank.

**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.

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

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **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.

## **COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS**

**THE SJLC COUNCIL** meeting is on **Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30pm.

**MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD** items for **September/October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk and powdered milk.

**HAM SANDWICH SALE** is on the second Friday of every month at SJLC. Orders are due the Monday before.

## **Worship SCHEDULE**

September 21 [Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

September 28 [Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 5 [Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 12 [Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play

October 19 [Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

Sun. 09/14 Rally Day Brunch following worship.

Sat. 09/20 Barnabas Brothers breakfast 8:00am

Tue. 09/23 SJLC council meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. 09/17, 09/24 Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. 09/21, 09/28 Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Sun. 10/12, 11/09, 01/11, 02/8, 03/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Play Sunday School

### **Reminders for September**

**Acolytes** – Jameson Phillips, Dorian Phillips

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Kathy Limes, Nancy Craig, Becky Yetter

**Communion Assistants** – Justice Mills – crucifer, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

**Ushers** – Dave Ray – head, Ginny Ray, Deb Kling

**Money Counters** – Terri Limes, Deb Kling

**Lay Lectors**

**September 21 – Jenna Dudukovich**

**September 28 – Anne Spicer**

**Next Sunday's Readings:** *Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13*