

# 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:00 AM *Michael and All the Angels / Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

The archangel Michael is pictured as a prince and a general of the heavenly army, defeating the dragon (the ancient serpent, the devil, Satan). It is important, though, to see in Revelation 12:11 that God's victory ultimately comes by Jesus' death and the testimony of his followers. The power of God's truth gives us confidence in the face of evil on earth, even in the face of our own death.

**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

*Ushers* – Steve Burk, (head usher), Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter

*Cantor* – Nellie Wilson

*Lay Lector* – Jim Rosenberry

*Communion Assistants* – Justice Mills, Dave Phillips, Hillary Worley

*Crucifer* – Justice Mills

*Acolytes* – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Ann Hetrick, Nancy Craig, Becky Yeater

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Sweet Hour of Prayer" with "Standing in the Need of Prayer" William B. Bradbury/Spiritual, Arr. Robert D. Vandall, 2013 Alfred Music

**Piano duet with Nellie Wilson**

### **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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**Processional Hymn**

**ELW #532 "Gather Us In"**

## **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**

Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help and defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Special Music**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” 17<sup>th</sup> century English Melody, Arr. Robert D. Vandall, 2014  
Alfred Music

**Piano duet with Nellie Wilson**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3**

*Daniel trembles in the presence of an angel. That angel tells the prophet about the good and terrible future when the dead will be resurrected, and the archangel Michael will usher in the deliverance of the nation.*

<sup>10</sup>A hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup>He said to me, “Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you.” So, while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. <sup>12</sup>He said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before

your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>14</sup>and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days.

<sup>12:14</sup>“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

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

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22**

*Bless the LORD, you angels, all you hosts of God. (Ps. 103:20, 21)*

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God’s benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

<sup>20</sup>**Bless the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who do God’s bidding,  
who obey the voice of God’s word.**

<sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all you hosts of God,  
you servants who do God’s will.

<sup>22</sup>**Bless the LORD, all you works of God, in all places where God rules;  
bless the LORD, O my soul.**

### **Second Reading: Revelation 12:7-12**

*Armed with the power of God, Michael and the angels of God fight those armed with the power of evil, the devil and the devil’s angels. The “blood of the Lamb,” our*

*crucified Lord Jesus, gives Michael the power to force the devil from a place in heaven.*

<sup>7</sup>War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

<sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

“Now have come the salvation and the power

and the kingdom of our God

and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,

who accuses them day and night before our God.

<sup>11</sup>But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony,

for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice then, you heavens

and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you

with great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!”

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

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

## CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Paula Hershberger

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 10:17-20**

*The missionary church (“the seventy-two”) is given magnificent power. Greater than this gift of power over the enemy, however, is the gift of salvation: their names are written in heaven.*

<sup>17</sup>The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” <sup>18</sup>He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup>See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Charlie**

**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 with: "*Hear Us, O God*"  
And the Congregational response is:  
**"your mercy is great"**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,  
Tracy Loucks, Jack Stull, Toby  
Sweigart, Dave Borland, Larry  
Niemond, Martha Liebegott and the  
Call Committee.

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

### **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**

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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...

and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...  
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.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit...

by your Spirit, in your church, without end.  
**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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

## 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

#### Piano duets with Nellie Wilson

“Let Us Break Bread Together” Spiritual, 2011 Alfred Music

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Swedish Melody, 2013 Alfred Music

“Jesus Loves Me” William B. Bradbury, 2013 Alfred Music

All 3 songs Arr. Robert D. Vandall

## **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 God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ***SENDING***

### **BLESSING**

God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #810 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “Go, Make Disciples” (#540 in our Hymnal)**

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## **DEDICATIONS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Sue and Mike Shawver in memory of their father's and in honor of their family.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Caity and Carly Croyle in loving memory of Ron Croyle.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in loving memory of Neal H. Demskie by Nancy Demskie.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Scott and Heidi Welham in memory of Susan Welham and John Mertz.

### ST. JOHN'S NEWS

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION** The minutes were approved at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for the meeting that was held on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The highlights of the August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes are as follows: Correspondence: A letter from Children and Youth was received concerning putting up a giving tree for children again this year. Based on the overwhelming response last year, the number of children's names this year may be increased. It was approved to allow the Children and Youth Organization to put up a giving tree this year in the sanctuary during the Christmas season until all of the tags are removed. The treasurer's written report along with the checks over a \$100 was submitted and approved. The pastor's report was submitted and approved. **Worship & Music:** There was a meeting held on July 18<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that there would only be 1 Christmas Eve service again this year. The Children's Christmas program will be held on the second Sunday of December. The Christmas Cantata will be performed on the third Sunday of December.

**Finance:** The finance committee reported that they will start working on a new budget at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Property Committee:** The panic bars were installed on the doors at the Third and Main Street entrance and are working properly. It was approved to hire Cumberland Stained Glass Co. to make repairs to the needed stain glass in the sanctuary. They hope to have us done by the end of the year. MGM was approved to replace the two outdoor units that heat/cool the office wing as well as the Fellowship Hall. **Social Ministry:** Is working on a 70+ dinner for a Saturday towards the end of October or the beginning of December. There will be a potluck meal after the Children's Christmas program the second Sunday of December. **Evangelism:** The Barnabas Brothers are going to honor our clergy (Pastor Allen and Pastor Charlie on Clerical Day, October 13<sup>th</sup>, right after church. That same day the Barnabas Brothers will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pastor Charlie has been asked to say a few words as one of the founding members. The fourth quarter special offering was approved to be given to Mother's Hubbard Cupboard. Pastor's wife Joy has been granted permission to make busy bags for kids that need something to do during church. The Bishop has granted Pastor Allen permission to continue as our interim pastor through the end of 2025 or until we have a call. Carrie Stuftt, Steve Burke, and myself will be coming off of council this year. We will be looking for three new members of St. John's Lutheran Church Council. The term is a three-year term which begins the day after the election which is held during the annual congregational meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor Allen know of your interest in serving. And as always, if anyone has any questions whatsoever about the church or council, please feel free to seek me out after church or I can be reached at (717) 437-0413. Respectfully submitted, President Scott

**CHANGE OF DAY** Meet & Eat will be changing the **day from Tuesday to Wednesday** in October. On **Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>** the ladies will journey to the **Hublersburg Inn** (a 46-minute drive) in Hublersburg Pa. for luncheon. Please see Jennie for more information.

**ST. JOHN'S WOMEN of the ELCA** are asking your help with a **CHRISTMAS AT SEA** project of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. This is how we can share Christmas with crew members on container ships who can't be home for Christmas. Satchels are provided for you to fill with 1 sweatshirt, 1 T-shirt, 3 pair of socks, 1 winter cap, 1 of the following: can of nuts, a large bar of chocolate or a heathy snack bar and a Holiday or Christmas card from you. Satchels and other information about this project are on the reference table in the foyer near the church office. If you take a satchel to fill, please add your name to the list next to the CHRISTMAS AT SEA box. When filled, place the satchel back in the box by **October 7, 2024**. The following Sunday they will be blessed by Pastor Allen, taken to the Synod Office and then delivered to the New York Seafarer's office for Christmas distribution to the crew on container ships. Please contact Paula Hershberger or Joy Hulslander if you have any questions.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** If you wish to change your envelope type (weekly or monthly) or you give online and prefer a special offerings envelope, please notify Sue Shawver by **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Thank you.

**GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL** (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 10/13, 11/10, 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

**THE LUMINA CENTER MINISTRIES** is having a raising awareness benefit Shining Jesus' light across Mifflin County on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00pm. The benefit will take place at the Lewistown Alliance Church on Juniata Terrace. Please see Mary Barr for more information.

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

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

**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.

**UPDATES** The church office is working on updating the congregation demographic records. If you have moved, changed your phone number or if you have become a new member in the last 2 years, please pick up a demographic sheet located on the resource table in the lobby.

**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

**ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS** are reminded to provide their group's recommended budgets for 2025 by Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to either Cheryl Bressler and/or Ed Deamer.

**MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD** item requests 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.

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

## Worship SCHEDULE

October 6 [Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 13 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play

October 20 [Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 27 [Reformation Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

October meetings are listed in next week October 6<sup>th</sup>'s Bulletin.

### **Reminders for October**

**Acolytes** – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Robyn Mertz, Betty Weaver, Mary Barr, Linda Goss

**Communion Assistants** – Glen Hetrick, Sue Shawver, Terri Limes – book bearer

**Crucifer** – Glen Hetrick

**Ushers** – Scott Welham – head usher, Robyn Mertz, Deb Kling

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

### **Lay Lectors**

**October 6 – Tom Beaver**

**October 13 – Children**

**October 20 – Joyce Tanner**

**October 27 – Scott Welham**

## August Financial Report

	Actual August 2023	Actual August 2024	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Budget Variance 2024
Current Envelope Offering	19,849	16,464	15,667	797
Current Loose Plate	484	320	400	(80)
Sunday School Offering			58	(58)
<b>Total Regular Offerings Received</b>	<b>20,333</b>	<b>16,784</b>	<b>16,125</b>	<b>659</b>
Benevolence - Faith Commitment to Synod*	3,585	1,068	1,667	(599)
Benevolence - Other	540	40	-	40
<b>Total Benevolence Received</b>	<b>4,125</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>(559)</b>
Capital Improvements - Regular Offering	3,545	920	-	-
Capital Improvements - Under One Roof	1,493	763	-	-
<b>Total Capital Improvement Offering Received</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>*Receipts are disbursed to Synod Monthly</i>				

**Next Sunday's Readings:** *Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8, Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16*