

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, September 8th, 2024, 9:00 AM ✦ *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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 Huslander

Ushers – Dorian, Jameson, and Leif Phillips

Cantor – Geneva Kelly

Lay Readers – Mara Gallo, Kiersten Treaster, Nevin Farley

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 "Like A River Glorious" James Mountain, Arr. Cindy Berry, 2015 Alfred Music

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.

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

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

Special Music

“Lord, I Need You” Reeves, Stanfill, Maher, Nockels, Carson, Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2018
WORSHIPTOGETHER.COM SONGS

Piano duet with Carrie Stuftt

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed
down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

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

Special Music

"10,000 Reasons" Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, Arr. David Ebensberger, 2011 SHOUT!
Publishing

Youth Praise and Worship Choir

Solos: Dorain Phillips, Jameson Phillips, Geneva Kelly

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 Mark the 7th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his

tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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.**

**Presentation of Bibles
Introduction of Sunday School Teachers**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "*Hear Us, O God*"

And the Congregational response is:

"your mercy is great"

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,
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-

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



bles - sing. 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.**

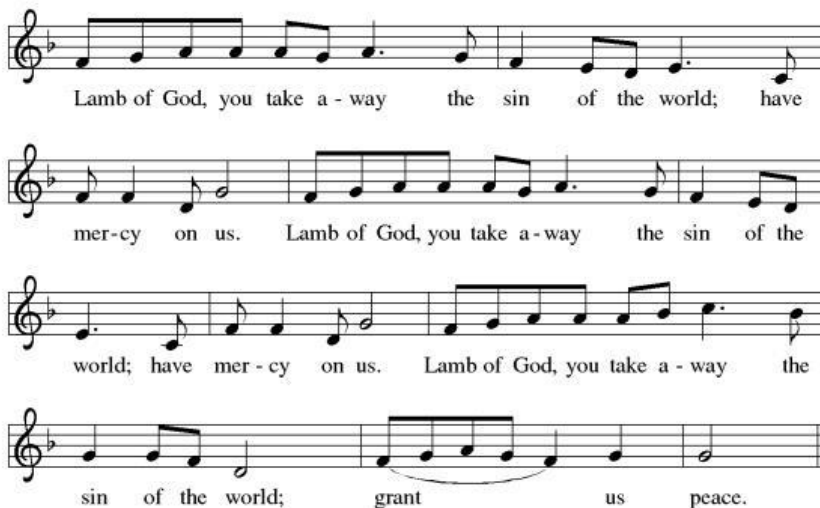
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come and be filled.

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

“Be Still My Soul” Jean Sibelius

“God Will Take Care of You” Walter S. Martin

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” Spiritual

(All 3 songs Arr. Cindy Berry, 2015 Alfred Music)

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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #886 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (#620 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 Judy Spencer in loving memory of her husband Wayne Spencer.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Beth Ann Bodtorf to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother Pearl A. Bodtorf.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in thanks for God's hand of blessing in her life by Josie Baughman.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Robert and Giselle Miller in honor of their grandchildren Cora, Cooper, and Poppy.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

TODAY IS RALLY DAY! For all ages will meet after church service today September 8th. All are welcome!

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive". Godly Play dates are as follows: 9/08, 10/13, 11/10, 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/13, 05/11. All are welcome!

NEWSLETTER The deadline for the October newsletter is Sunday September 15th. Please submit information to the SJLC office.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS breakfast meetings resume on Saturday September 21st, at 8am in the Church Fellowship Hall. All Men of the Church are cordially invited to attend and share a morning of Christian Fellowship with a King's Breakfast. We are honored to have Pastor Allen as our scheduled Guest Speaker and Pastor Allen will discuss the Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church . Please plan to attend and enjoy the morning of Christian Fellowship.

BARNABAS BROTHERS HOAGIE SALE is Friday September 27th, 2024. Pick-up orders 9:00am or scheduled delivery at the church Fellowship Hall. All orders are due Sunday September 22nd, 2024. Any questions please call Steve Burk at (717) 250-7410.

THE LUMINA CENTER is having a yard sale on Friday September 27th, 2024, from 9:00am until 6:00pm. If you would like to donate, please see Mary Barr.

SCHOOL KITS AND PERSONAL CARE KITS The crates for these kits have been in the Fellowship Hall during August. Our last Sunday to accept them is September 29th, 2024.

CHANGE OF DAY Meet & Eat will be changing the **day from Tuesday to Wednesday** in October. On **Wednesday October 2nd** 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.

THE LUMINA CENTER MINISTRIES is having a raising awareness benefit Shining Jesus' light across Mifflin County on Sunday October 13th, 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.

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.

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.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

MISSION AND OUTREACH meeting is on Tuesday September 10th, 2024, at 4:30pm.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE meeting is on Tuesday September 17th, 2024, at 10:00am.

THE SJLC COUNCIL meeting is on Monday September 23rd at 6:30pm.

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

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

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



Worship SCHEDULE

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

September 22 [Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

September 29 [Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

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

Meetings (Please see above for details)

09/08 Rally Day today after Worship.

09/10 Tue. Mission & Outreach meeting at 4:30pm.

09/11, 09/18, 09/25 Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

09/17 Tue. Property Committee meeting at 10:00am.

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

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Mara Gallo, Dorian Phillips

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

Communion Assistants – Justice Mills, Dave Phillips, Hillary Worley

Crucifer – Justice Mills

Ushers – Steve Burk – head usher, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter

Money Counters – Robyn Mertz, Genevive McCardle

Lay Lectors

September 15 – Hillary Worley

September 22 – Adele Craig

September 29 – Jim Rosenberry

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38*