

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)

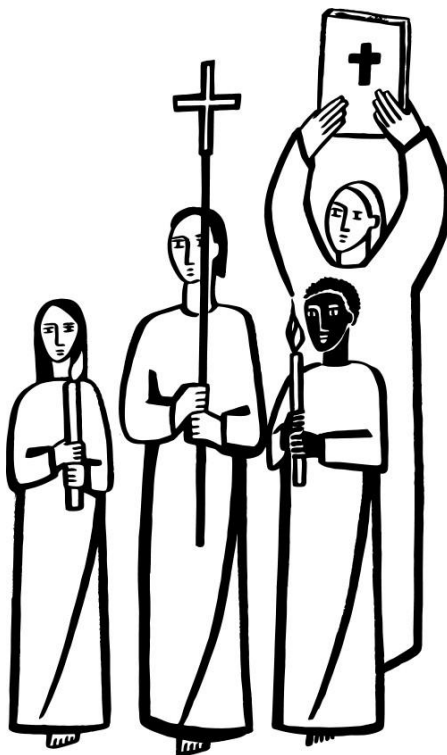
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

Director of Music/Organist: Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, October 26th, 2025, 9:00AM ✦ Reformation Sunday / Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

Altar Guild Volunteers – Mary Barr, Betty Weaver, Janet Deamer

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Terri Limes

Crucifer – Ed Deamer

Lay Reader – Kim Crone

Ushers – Scott Welham – head, Dallas Tanner, Joyce Tanner

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Martin Luther Arr. John A. Behnke, 2002
Concordia Pub. House

Handbell 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.

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #504 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Entrance of Martin Luther with 95 Theses portrayed by Jon Farley

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

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"Built on the Rock" Stan Pethel and Russ Borchardt, 1994 GlorySound

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only

because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

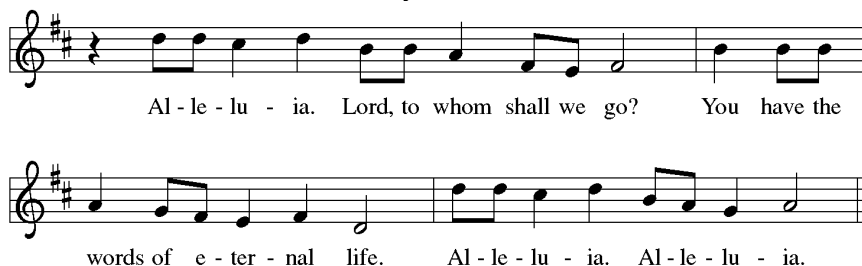
²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

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

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 John the 8th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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 with: *“God of Grace”*

And the Congregational response is:

“receive our prayer”

SHARING of GOD’S PEACE

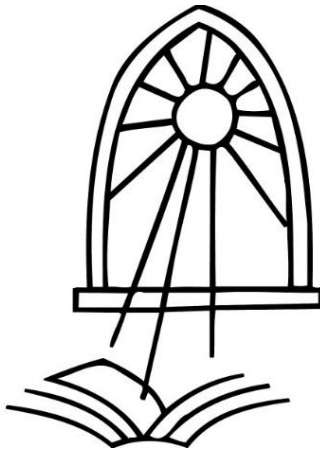
Share the Peace in a safe manner.

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, and the Call
Committee.

*To have someone added to the
Prayer Guide-with their permission-
please contact the church office.



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

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 (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; 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:

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

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Inspired by Haydn's "The Heavens are Telling" 'Gesangbuch der Herzogl.' Wittenburg, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2017 Alfred Music
Hymns of Praise: "Praise to the Lord Almighty" ("Erneuerten Gesangbuch") "All Creatures of Our God and King" ("Geistliche Kirchengesang") and "Praise the Lord! Ya heavens, Adore Him" 9Franz Joseph Haydn) Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2007 Hal Leonard Corp.

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

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 #654 “The Church’s One Foundation”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “Built on A Rock” (#652 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Scott Price in honor of the 508th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and in memory of Mrs. Pegge Mixer who loved Reformation.

THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN is presented by is presented by Pam Logan in honor of loved ones

THIS WEEK’S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of John P. Mertz by his wife Robyn Mertz.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Janet and Ed Deamer in honor of their church family.

ST. JOHN’S NEWS

REFORMATION RECITAL The St. John’s Lutheran Church Reformation Recital is **today October 26th, at 3:00pm**

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 **today October 26th** as they will be blessed during worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Hulslander or Paula Hershberger.

NO CHIOR PRACTICE on **Wednesday, October 29th**.

ALL SAINTS DAY We invite those families who have lost a loved one this year to bring a framed photo for our all saints display on **Sunday, November 2nd**.

HOME COMMUNION is on **Sunday, November 2nd**.

THE GIVING TREE will be up in the sanctuary **Sunday, November 2nd**. There will be a sign-up sheet for your name and phone number. We have 40 children in need. Please fulfill the requests on the tag. If unable to fulfill all the requests, we suggest partnering with others to ease the burden of the expense. No gift cards are allowed. Please have the gifts wrapped and returned to the church **by November, 30th**. Any questions can be directed to Hillary or Pam.

REMINDER Flower, Bulletin, and Eternal Candle Sponsors, please return your completed sponsorship form to the church office by **November 3, 2025**, to reserve your sponsorships for 2026. Thank you.

GIRL SCOUT FALL GOODIES The Girls Scout Fall Products are now available. The list of items for sale and the order form is posted on the SJLC Office window. **Carly Foltz** is one of the Girl Scout's **representing** her **Troop #40375**. Susan in the office will be available to take orders and collect "paper payment". Orders are **due by November 6th**. **Checks** are to made out to **Amanda Foltz**. They can be dropped off at the office or put in Susan's box in the atrium. Online orders can be placed at **venmo@afoltzscouts** until November 13th. Delivery of these "**goodies**" will be between December 1st thru December 5th to Hillary and she will bring them to church and distribute them accordingly.

HOAGIE SALE The Barnabas Brothers hoagie sale is on **Friday, November 14th**. Orders are due on **Sunday, November 9th**. The cost is \$5.00, and the order form is posted on the SJLC Office window. Hoagie flyers and order sheets can also be obtained from Barnabas Brothers Treasurer Mike Reeder Proceeds benefit congregation and community projects. Please contact Steve Burk at 717-250-7410 with any questions

THE 2025-2026 STEWARDSHIP Campaign is underway. Forms will be placed at each entrance of the sanctuary and placed on the resource table. If you've volunteered for the same things year after year we ask you to re-enlist every year so that we know you are still interested .Please complete and return the form to the church office no later than **Sunday, November 16th** This way The Stewardship Committee can have an updated list of volunteers in a timely manner. Thank you for volunteering and helping SJLC get off to a good start in 2026.

LUMINA HAM SANDWICH SALE change of date for November. The next ham sandwich sale is on **Friday, November 21st**. Orders are due on **Monday, November 17th**. The cost is \$4.00 and there is an order form posted on the SJLC Office window. If you have any questions, please see Mary B.

THE LUMINA CENTER will have a vacant council seat at the end of this year. After 10 years as a volunteer council member Mary Barr will be retiring from “council chair” at the end of the year. If anyone from SJL Church is interested in representing the Lumina Center as a council member, please see Mary B.

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, November 9th, January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th**. All are welcome!

WINTER NEWSLETTER Please submit any information for the upcoming newsletter by **Tuesday, November 18th** to Susan in the office. Thank you!

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING will go towards Camper Scholarships at Camp at 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 **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.

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 meeting is on **Tuesday, October 28th** at 6:30pm

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

ATTENTION COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS it's that time of year to submit your yearly report for the SJLC Annual report which is **due December 31st**. Therefore, the administration office asks that all reports be submitted via email, US mail, or in writing no later than **Friday, December 5th, 2025**. Thank you.

Worship SCHEDULE

November 2 [All Saints Day] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 9 [Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play

November 16 [Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play

November 23 [Christ the King] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 30 [First Day of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. 10/28 SJLC council meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. 10/29, 11/05, 11/12, 11/19 Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. 10/26, 11/02, 11/06, 11/16 Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

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

Reminders for November

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Anne Spicer

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray - crucifer, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich

Ushers – Dennis Noble – head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Ed Aurand

Lay Lectors

November 2 – Jim Rosenberry

November 9 – Youth

November 16 – Ed Deamer

November 23 – Gisele Miller

November 30 – Anne Spicer

Next Sunday's Readings: *Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31*