

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, August 4th, 2024, 9:00 AM ✦ *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

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 – Tom Beaver (head usher), Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Lay Lector – Norma Fisher

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Norma Fisher, Sue Shawver

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Mary McKee, Mary Herto, Sue Harris

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Shout to the Lord" with "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Darlene Zschech, Isaac Watts, Arr. Don Wyrzten, 2009 Darlene Zschech and Hillsong Pub., Hal Leonard Corp.

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.

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 #461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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 Stufft

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God’s saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there

was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so, mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

²³So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴**raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

²⁶**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

²⁷raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸**letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**

²⁹So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

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

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 John the 6th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven." ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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: "*Merciful God*"

And the Congregational response is:

"receive our prayer"

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,
Tracy Loucks, Jack Stull, Toby
Sweigart, Dave Borland, Larry
Niemond, Barbara Allison, 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

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.
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 (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.**

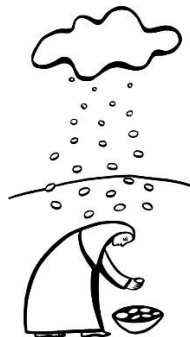
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

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

Amen.

INVITATION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!



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

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (Inspired by Mendelssohn’s “Consolation”) Spiritual, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2017 Alfred Music

“Break Thou the Bread of Life” (Inspired by Ravel’s “Pavane pour une infante defunte”) William F. Sherwin, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2018 Alfred Music

“There Is a Redeemer” Melody Green, Arr. Mark Hayes, 1982 BIRDWING 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

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #618 ‘Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer’

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Bread of Life from Heaven” (#474 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 Tracy and Dan Loucks in honor of their 22nd wedding anniversary and in memory of Dan's sister Susan Loucks-Freeman.

THIS WEEK'S BASKET is presented by David Borland in loving memory of his wife Isabel.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Barbara and Ray Allison in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in loving memory of wife Isabel Borland by David Borland.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Nancy Ressler in memory of her husband Jim Ressler.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION The highlights of the June 24th meeting are as follows: Correspondence: There were three thank you notes. One from the Lumina Center, one from the Central Meat Canning Association, and one from Camp Mount Luther. These were all for donations received from St. John's. The June council meeting minutes were approved. The treasurers written report along with the checks over a \$100 was submitted and approved. The pastor's report was submitted and approved. The third quarter special offering was approved to go to the Energy Bank. At the Synod Assembly in June, it was reported that there are 113 churches in our synod. 58% of them are currently in transition. This should give a real good idea why the demand is so high for available Pastor's. On a side note, we are going to be reinstituting the church news bulletin on a quarterly basis starting with the first of September. We are asking that articles need to be to Susan by August 15th. I'm looking for heads of all committees to participate in this news bulletin process. The more content, the better the bulletin. We are also looking for someone who would be willing to write a weekly article for the newspaper sharing upcoming church events. 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.

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by the Blessing and the Rosenberry Family's

ATTENTION MEET & EAT LADIES! Some of the women would like to go to the Scraps and Skeins Shop in State College before going to the Ale House. You are welcome to join them in the Geisinger Parking Lot at **9:30am next to Paula Hershberger to carpool**. Otherwise, see you at the Ale House.

MEET & EAT luncheon is on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024, at 12:00-Noon. The luncheon will be at The American Ale House 821 Cricklewood Dr. in State College. Please call Jennie McCardle at 717-248-1327 if you need a ride.

ACOLYTE TRAINING There will be acolyte training on Monday August 12th, 2024, at 6:00pm. Training is open for **grades 5th and up including adults**. If you have any questions, please contact Norma Fisher at 717-248-2253.

PRAYER CHAIN We are looking for new members to be a part of our prayer chain team. It is an important outreach to our church family. If you are interested contact Gloria Stewart 717-348-3935 for those on prayer chain, please notify me when any changes are made.

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

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 contact Susan C. to change/add that information to the St. John Lutheran Church records.

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.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 3rd Quarter Special Offering will go towards the Energy Bank.

RAINBOW SUMMER Once again, the LUMINA Center will be hosting Rainbow Summer. If your heart strings are tugging for you to assist, there are opportunities to volunteer and donate. You can sponsor a child for \$125 (although any amount is greatly appreciated). Most of all, please pray for the Center, its purpose, its programs, its staff/volunteers, and the individuals/families it serves.

THE LUMINA CENTER is selling its yearly Community Restaurant Discount Cards. 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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT There will be a special meeting of the Property Committee on Tuesday August 6th, 10:00am at the church to discuss a proposed resolution to the problematic Mitsubishi HVAC units of the 1993 church addition.

THE SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on Monday August 26th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for August are non-perishable foods and condiments.

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

*** A SPECIAL LETTER OF THANKS** Thank you members of St. John's for your kind messages and cards. They are greatly appreciated. I recently moved to Palmerton. I am feeling well and am enjoying being near family. With love, "Lyn" Diebert.

Worship SCHEDULE

August 11 [Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 18 [Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 25 [Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
September 1 [Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

Meetings (Please see above for details)

08/04 Sun. Social hour today after Worship.
08/06 Tue. Meet & Eat Luncheon 12-Noon at The American Ale House in State College.
08/06 Tues. Property Committee meeting at 10:00am at the SJLC.
08/26 Mon. Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Reminders for August

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Mary McKee, Mary Herto, Sue Harris

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble, Norma Fisher, Sue Shawver

Crucifer – Dennis Noble

Ushers – Tom Beaver – head usher, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

Money Counters – Terri Limes, Mary Barr

Lay Lectors

August 11- Mara Gallo

August 18 – Teri Limes

August 25 – Gisele Miller

Next Sunday's Readings: *1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35,41-51.*