

# 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>

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**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *The Holy Trinity / Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

**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* – Allen Hulslander

*Lay Speaker* – Nikki Hidlay

*Acolytes* – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Anne Spicer, Peggy Finkenbiner, Sharon Phillips, Jen Johnson

*Cantor* – Mina Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Hillary Worley, Gisele Miller, Norma Fisher

*Crucifer* – Hillary Worley

*Lay Lector* – Cora Rankin

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

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

**PRELUDE 9:00 AM** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" "Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch" Arr. Diane Bish, 1980 Fred Bock Music Co.

### **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.*

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Processional Hymn**

**ELW pg. #412 “Come Join the Dance of Trinity”**

## **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 pg. #138 Setting 3**

**Glory to God**

**ELW pg. #139 Setting 3**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Special Music**

“We Believe” Matthew Hooper, Richie Fike, Travis Ryan, Arr. Carol Tornquist 2013 Abundant Life Ministries and Integrity’s Praise! Music

**Mina Phillips – Vocal**

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

**Nikki Hidlay**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

<sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate

the waters from the waters.”<sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.<sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.<sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.<sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.<sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,<sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.<sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.<sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,<sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.<sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”<sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.<sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”<sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.<sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”<sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.<sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to

every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

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

## **Psalm: Psalm 8**

*How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)*

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup> all <sup>l</sup> flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*


[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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 Matthew the 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

After the reading ...

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Nikki Hidlay**

### **Nicene Creed**

*Please stand as you are able. Together we confess:*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The petitions end with: "God of Grace"  
And the Congregational response is:  
**"hear 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,  
Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson,  
Joanne Troutman, Toby Sweigart,  
Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer 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 dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
**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.**

## **COMMUNION PREFACE**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW pg. #144 Setting 3**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues:*

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.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, who 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

## 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” Spiritual, Arr. Tom Fettke, 2016 Alfred Music  
“Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises” with “To God Be the Glory” James and Elizabeth Greenleash; William H. Doane, Arr. Mark Hayes 2001 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music  
“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” with J.S. Bach’s Invention No. 14 in B flat” John B. Dykes, Arr. Gail Smith, 2003 Pilot Point 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**

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

**ELW pg. #673 “God Whose Almighty Word”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “Father Most Holy” (#415 in our hymnal)**

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### **DEDICATIONS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Sue Phillips and family in loving memory of David L. and Margaret E. Brown.

**TODAY'S BASKET** is presented by Gisele and Bob Miller in honor of their grandchildren, Cora and Cooper Rankin and Poppy Miller

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** in Sue Oden in honor of loved ones.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in loving memory of their parents Ray and Lois Ann Burk and Leroy and Marge Wait given by Cindy and Steve Burk.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Ceara and Kyle Rankin in honor of Cora's birthday.

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

**CARL KING'S** baseball team will be hosting a car wash at Blaise Alexander of Lewistown on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm. The fundraiser is to raise money for the boys to go watch a Harrisburg Senator's game as a team. Any questions please feel free to contact Mariah at 717-250-7854.

**GRADUATES** If you have a **2026** high school or college graduate, please let the office know by **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** as we plan to recognize all graduates on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**SUMMER SOCIAL** will be hosted by the SJLC Council on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**BABY BOTTLES** Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day, Crossroads Pregnancy Center holds their "**Baby Bottle Boomerang**" fundraiser. If you want to participate, just pick up a baby bottle at one of the church entrances, fill it with your spare change, & return the baby bottle to the church by **Father's Day Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you for your support! Give online [www.cpcfornlife.org](http://www.cpcfornlife.org)

**SUMMER SOCIAL HOUR** The sign-up sheet for summer sponsors after worship is on the church window.

**SEAFARE'R BAGS** If you are going to fill a Seafarer's Bag this year, it is still a good time to look for sweatshirts on sale. Other items for bags are a tee-shirt the same size as the sweatshirt, 3 pairs of socks, a hat (which will be provided) and a can of nuts. More information about this project will be announced later.

**2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER OFFERING** has been designated to Camp Mt. Luther – Capital Campaign Fund.

**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 **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards will be available for purchase in **August**. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community.

**SJLC OFFICE** lunch hour Tuesday and Thursday is between 11:30am -12:30pm.

**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

**SJLC COUNCIL MEETING** on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **June** are shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bars of soap.

## Worship SCHEDULE

June 7 [Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
June 14 [Third Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
June 21 [Fourth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
June 28 [Fifth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
July 5 [Sixth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship  
July 12 [Seventh Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

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

Tue. May 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at 6:30pm.

## **Reminders for June**

**Acolytes** – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller, Cora Rankin

**Communion Assistants** – Scott Price – crucifer, Tom Beaver, Dennis Noble

**Ushers** – Dennis Crossgrove – head, Gloria Stewart, Scott Welham

**Money Counters** – Mary Barr, Jennie Mc Cardle

### **Lay Lectors**

June 7 – Anne Spicer

June 14 – Kim Crone

June 21 – Hillary Worley

June 28 – Tom Beaver

**Next Sunday's Readings:** *Hosea 5:15-6:6, Psalm 50:7-15, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*