

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, September 6th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

Acolytes – Geneva Kelly, Dorian Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Becky Yeater, Mina Phillips

Cantor – Dave Phillips

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

Crucifer – Scott Price

Lay Lector – Ray Dillon

Ushers – Dave Ray head, Ginny Ray, Deb Kling

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Henry Purcell, Arr. Cindy Berry,

WELCOME AND 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 pg. #514 “O Word of God Incarnate”

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

This Is the Feast

ELW pg. #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“In Christ Alone My Hope Is Found” Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, Arr. Dennis Allen, 2007
Thankyou Music
Dave Phillip - Vocal

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

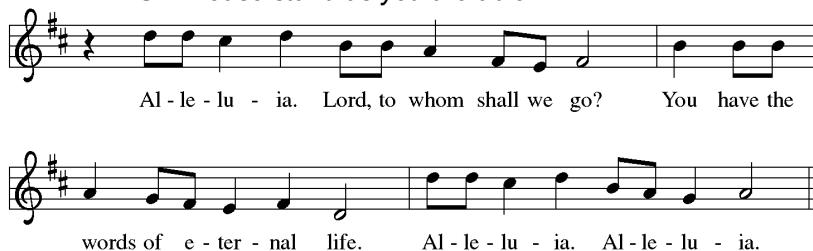
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

After the reading ...

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 to the dead
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "Hear us, O God"

And the Congregational response is

"Your mercy is great"

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer, Steve Yohn, Patti Niemond and the Call Committee.

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

SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

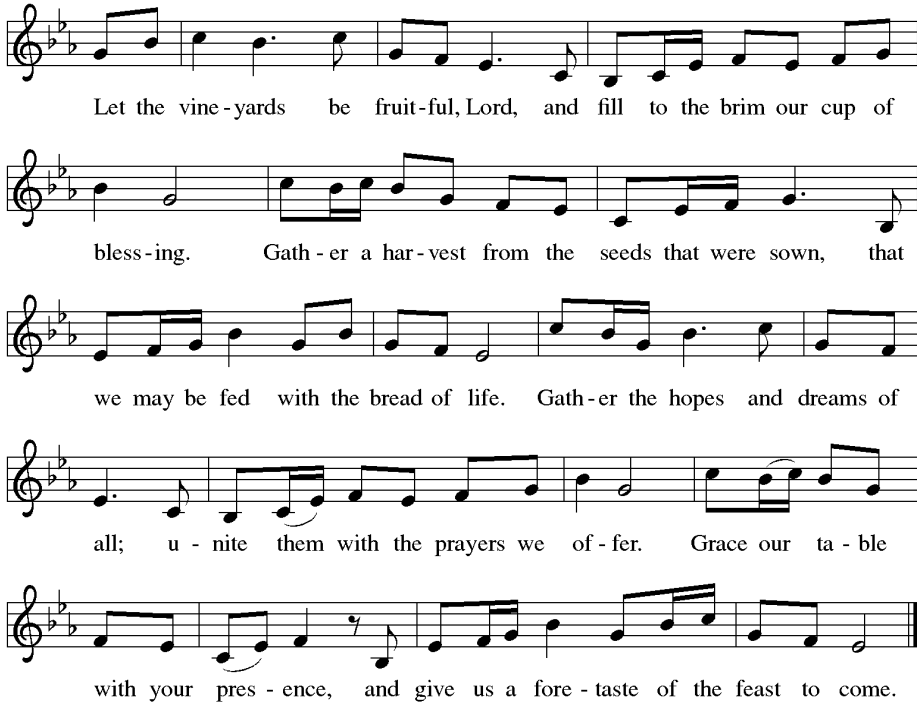
Share the Peace in a safe manner.

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 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

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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, 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. #144 Setting 3

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.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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.

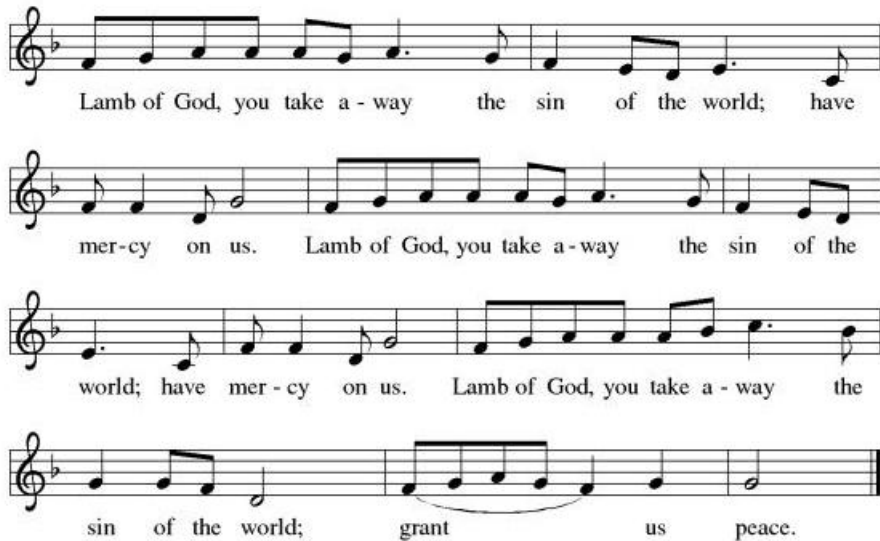
INVITATION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 3



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

“El Shaddai” John Thompson, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2001 Arr. Mark Hayes, 2001 Whole Armor Pub. Co.

“Trust and Obey” with Robert Schumann’s “Traumerei” Daniel B. Towner, Arr. Gail Smith, 2003 Pilot Pint Music

“Rock of Ages” with J.S. Bach’s “Goldberg Variation No. 19” Thomas Hastings, 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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #547 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” (#536 in our hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 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 Bodtorf to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother Pearl A. Bodtorf.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of loved ones given by Josie Baughman.

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

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

HAM SANDWICH SALE The LUMINA ham sandwich sales are starting back up! We will be taking orders until **Sunday, September 6th** and our first ham sandwich **pick-up day** of the season will be on **Friday, September 11th**. Ham Sandwiches are **\$4.00** each and ham is supplied by Wilson's Meats. Please see Janet Deamer and/or the order form posted on the church window.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH has decided to partner with Wesley Chapel in a mission to help the families of children who are in the Janet Weis Children's Hospital NICU Danville starting on **Sunday, September 6th**. We will be **collecting water, snacks, energy bars, microwave soups** and a variety of **non-perishable heat** and **serve meals** through the month of September, with collection ending on September 27th. These donations will help to stock the Family Lounge that parents and loved ones use while their child is staying in the hospital. It enables them to take a quick break or to get a much needed pick-me-up without having to go too far from their child. There will be a box located under the coat rack in the lobby and Pam will collect all donations to make sure they are taken to Danville. We greatly appreciate all your donations and support of our mission.

OFFICE CLOSED The SJLC office will be **closed** on **Monday, September 7th**, for Labor Day. The office will be open the remainder of the week and Pastor Allen will be in on Wednesday and Thursday.

CHANCEL & HANDBELL CHOIRS will be starting again on **Wednesday, September 9th**.

RALLY DAY is on **Sunday, September 13th** There will be a brunch following service that day, Sunday School officially begins on Sunday, September 20th.

ALL ARE INVITED to "A Celebration of God's Gift of Music" concert is on **Sunday, September 13th at 3:00pm**. There will be a variety of performers and music presented. Following the concert there will be light refreshments provided by the Barnabas Brothers in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend this special event.

RECITAL FELLOWSHIP the Barnabas Brothers are proudly providing refreshments after the organ recital on **Sunday, September 13th**. Refreshments will include ham and chicken salad sandwiches plus organ recital celebration cake and beverages. We anticipate 60 to 80 recital

attendees participating in the Fellowship Hall for a special time of Christian Fellowship. We respectfully request that congregation members bring a dessert or snack item to assist the Barnabas Brothers in providing refreshments for this special church and community event praising Our Lord and Savior.

PRAYER CHAIN If anyone would like to be added as one of our **Prayer Warriors** to the prayer chain, please contact Gloria Stewart at 717-348-3935.

BLOOD DRIVE! The Red Cross will be having a blood drive at St., John's Lutheran Church on **Thursday, September 17th** from Noon to 5:00pm. SJLC is a central location that attracts donors from Mifflin, Juniata and Snyder counties. Please plan to attend and help our Brothers and Sisters in Christ by donating blood at this urgent time. **"Save a life. Donate today!"**

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS will resume their regular meetings on Saturday, **September 19th** at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend a morning of Christian Fellowship, King's Breakfast and updates on this year's planned activities and events. This will be a scheduled business meeting. The Barnabas Brothers are dedicated to serving the St. John's Lutheran church, congregation and community.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on **Sunday, September 20th** at 10:15am. We will meet in the sanctuary with parents to discuss class schedule and expectations.

ACOLYTES We have had adults show interest in being acolytes. If this is something you may be interested in, please see Norma Fisher to be added to the schedule.

LUMINA CENTER is Mifflin County's local mission. (No need to go across seas to do mission work – there is a huge need, right here in MC.) Please help us pray throughout this month of August for Father's provision, as noted below.

WE ARE HIRING! LUMINA Center is looking to hire a full-time Program Coordinator and part-time Program Support Staff. If you or someone you know is looking for a great opportunity to spearhead missional programming, someone with vision, adaptability and a passion for making a huge impact on our local children and youth, please email inquiries and/or resume to execdirector@lumina-center.org

PRAYER HIGHLIGHT Please ask Father for direction and provision of staff and volunteers to support needed programs here at LUMINA. We believe His will is to see LUMINA continue to grow and flourish. The need is great and becoming greater every day! Your prayers help us fulfill our mission of serving the needs of our children and youth well.

NEW LUMINA CENTER community restaurant cards are here! Cards sell for **\$10** and have discounts for **20 local restaurants**. New cards will be effective August 31, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Please see Janet Deamer or Susan C. in the church office.

WELCA GROUPS Our WELCA groups recently received word from Lutheran World Relief that there is a **GREAT** need for **Personal Care Kits**. Therefore, we have decided to ask for

only Personal Care Kits this summer. The information display is in the fellowship hall. We sent 20 last year. We are hoping for 100 this year. We will collect them until the end of September.

SEAFARE'R BAGS are now available in the church lobby. Instructions for them are in the bags. At Synod Assembly we learned that only **M and L sweatshirts and tee-shirts** are needed. Other items remain the same as last year. If you have already purchased XL sweatshirts and/or tee-shirts, please see Joy Hulslander or Paula Hershberger.

3rd QUARTER OFFERING has been designated to Shelter Services.

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.

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 is on **Tuesday, September 22nd, at 6:30pm.**

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **September/October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk, powdered milk.

Worship SCHEDULE

September 13 [Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

September 20 [Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

September 27 [Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 4 [Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

October 11 [Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. September 22nd Council meeting at 6:30pm

Reminders for September

Acolytes – Geneva Kelly, Dorian Phillips

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

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Sue Shawver, Hillary Worley

Ushers – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Helen Rager, Deb Kling

Lay Lectors

September 6 – Ray Dillon

September 13 – Youth

September 20 – Jenna Dudukovich

September 27 Anne Spicer

Next Sunday's Readings: *Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-*