

# 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  
[stjohnslewestown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslewestown@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.stjohnslewestown.com>

[www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA](http://www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA)

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**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany /Setting 3**

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## INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

**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

*Organist* – Joan Loewen

*Acolytes* – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Shanel Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

*Cantor* – Dave Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Dave Ray- crucifer, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

*Crucifer* – Dave Ray

*Lay Reader* – Josie Baughman

*Ushers* – Tom Beaver – head, Norma Fisher, Hillary Worley

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

**PRELUDE**      "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Broughton. 1984 Lorenz Pub. Co.  
                    "Galliarda" Grichetchkine. 2019 Lorenz Pub. 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.*

### 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**  
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

**Processional Hymn**

**ELW #669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God**

## 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**

**Glory to God**

**ELW page #139 Setting 3**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Special Music**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" Arr. Andersen 1992 Agape  
**Peter Marsh, Joan Loewen**

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

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt

and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 15**

*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear  
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



Music notation for the Alleluia acclamation, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



Music notation for the continuation of the Alleluia acclamation, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup>, Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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: *“Merciful God”*

And the Congregational response is:  
“receive our prayer”

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull,  
Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie  
Wilson, Joanne Troutman,  
Darlene Varner, Toby Sweigart,  
Freda Hook, Lou Sonnenberg,  
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 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

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in

righteousness. 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.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

### 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.

## 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

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Sending***

### **BLESSING**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #728 “Blest Are They”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “Toccata on “Nicaea” Smith 1986 Lorenz Pub. Co.**

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*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 Carrie and Andy Thierwechter to the Glory of God and in honor of their granddaughters.

**TODAY'S BASKET** is presented by Janet and Ed Deamer in honor of Virginia and Edgar Deamer Sr.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented in honor of Bob, Kim, 6 grandsons and 10 grandchildren by Bob Mc Cormick

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in memory of Ruth Reish by Darlene Reish-Shawver.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Anne and Art Spicer in honor of all the children that attend church.

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

**THE ANNUAL** congregational meeting is **today** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share as the Barnabas Brothers will provide Giant Chicken and a celebration cake.

**THE COUNCIL REORGANIZATION** meeting is **today** following the congregational meeting in the conference room.

**THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT** is available today in the sanctuary and located on the resource table in the lobby.

**A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY!** A parishioner is willing to give \$1000 dollars to the organ fund if the congregation match the amount. It is simple for every dollar the congregation gives the parishioner will match it until the total reaches \$1000. If the challenge is accomplished, we would gain \$2000 for the organ fund. Ty for all that you do. Pastor Allen.

**SEAFARER'S PROJECT** For those of you who have participated in the **Christmas at Sea** Seafarer's project before, you may remember that one of the items is a sweatshirt. Now is a good time to look for them during winter sales. More details on this project will be in the next St. John's newsletter.

**MEET & EAT** All women of the church are cordially invited to the Asian Fusion Restaurant on **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 12:00-Noon. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant.

**ST JOHN'S** is looking for a part-time Financial Secretary. We are reaching out to the congregation before posting it to the public. Anyone interested, or needing more information, please see Hillary Worley, Ed Stewart or Nikki Hidlay. If there are no interested parties within the congregation, the position will be posted publicly after January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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, February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and May 10<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome!

**NO CHOIR** practice on Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**THE RED CROSS** blood drive will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** from Noon to 5:00pm. Flyers with information on the blood drive and how to maximize your blood donation have been placed on the SJLC resource table. **"Sleeves Up, Hearts Open, All In"**

The numbers are in and we are facing the **worst flu season in 20 years**. Blood supply is **down 35%**. Hospitals, medically facilities and most importantly **"the people"** are in desperate need of blood. The severest shortage of blood is type **O, A negative and B negative** blood

and platelets.

**2026 PROPOSED BUDGET** There are copies of the purposed budget on the resource table for review prior to the annual meeting.

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER** Campaign is seeking donations. Your gifts help the response to hunger and poverty in more than 60 counties around the world, including the United States. If interested in donating to the campaign, you can simply mark it on your offering envelope. Don't have an offering envelope? Simply put your donation in a blank envelope labeled World Hunger Campaign.

**FIRST QUARTER** Special Offerings will go towards the Central Pa. Meat Canning Project.

**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 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.

**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.

**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

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **February** are tissues, toilet paper, paper towels & tea bags.

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

# Worship SCHEDULE

February 8 [Fifth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play.

February 15 [Transfiguration of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School.

February 18 [Ash Wednesday] 7:00pm.

February 22 [First Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Sun. 2/08, 3/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Play Sunday School

## **Reminders for February**

**Acolytes** – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Shannen Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Ray- crucifer, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

**Ushers** – Tom Beaver – head, Norma Fisher, Hillary Worley

**Money Counters** – Scott Welham, Debbie Kling

## **Lay Lectors**

February 8 – Youth

February 15 – Jenna Dudukovich

February 22 – Tom Beaver

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10], 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16], Matthew 5:13-20*