

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 [REDACTED]

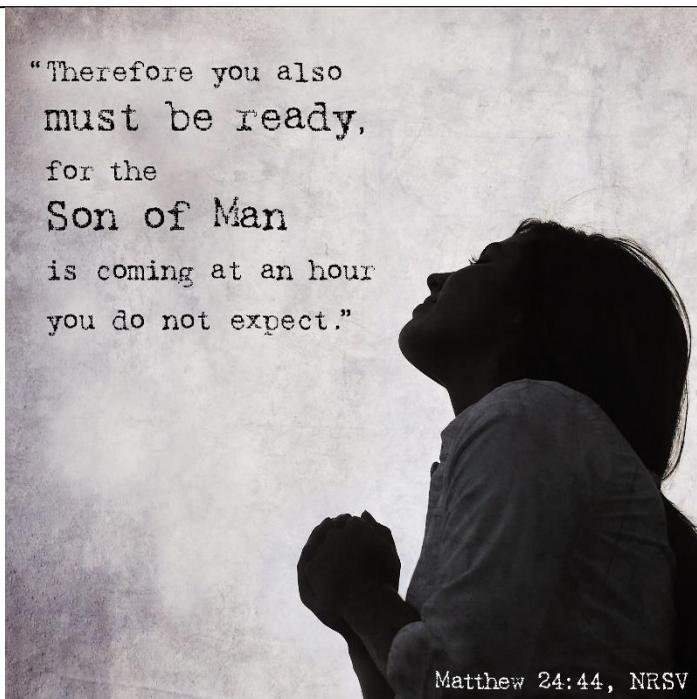
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, November 27, 2022 9:00 AM ✦ *The 1st Sunday of Advent / Setting 1*



Introduction to the Day The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

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 will be by 2-line procession through the center aisle. We will celebrate with wafers, wine and grape juice (please notify Acolyte). Gluten-free wafers are also provided-please tell the Pastor when communing. *If you prefer to use Pre-filled communion cups they are available at each entrance.

GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S We are currently not passing the plate, you will find plates located at each entrance. If you would like to give electronically to God's work through St. John's Lutheran Church, visit our website and click on the **E-Giving Tab** to go to a [secure form](#) through VANCO. You may also download the app, *VANCO MOBILE* and use your existing login information or provide new. For New Users: search for St Johns Lutheran of Lewistown to find our church. From there you can setup your e-giving how you would like. Look for an information sheet on the church resource table in the Fellowship Hall or ask the office admin. for help. Thank You for your continued support.

OTHER WORSHIP SPACE is available in the fellowship hall, where service can be heard. There is a nursery room (2nd fl education wing) if needed as we do not provide nursery care. The service can be heard from this room. Thank you for bringing your children to worship. God's family includes all ages!

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 in the offering plate. 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

Ushers – Ed Stewart, Gloria Stewart, Pam Tressler

Cantor - Geneva Kelly *Lay Lector*- Tom Beaver

Communion Assistants – Hillary Worley, Nikki Hldlay, Glen Hetrick

Crucifer – Glen Hetrick

Acolytes – Anderson Bitner and Nevin Farley

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM

“God with Us”

Christy Semsen

Geneva Kelly, *vocal*

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 & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Blowing of the Shofar (Ram's Horn)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW # 436 "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

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

Hymn of Praise

The Annunciation & Magnificat

Inside back of hymnal

Cantor (Annunciation) & Congregation

(An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Advent Cry”

Joseph M. Martin

Ava Kelly- *vocal*, Geneva Kelly - *dance*

“The Advent of Hope”

By Andrew Kooman Read by Hillary Worley and Mara Gallo

Recounting the story of Anna, a faithful elderly woman who saw the Hope of the world wrapped in swaddling clothes. Why? Luke 2:36-38 and 1 Peter 1:3

Acolyte lights the first Advent candle.



All Sing Verse 1 of *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5 *Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace*

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**
Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

Psalm 122 *Read responsively by whole verse.*

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions,

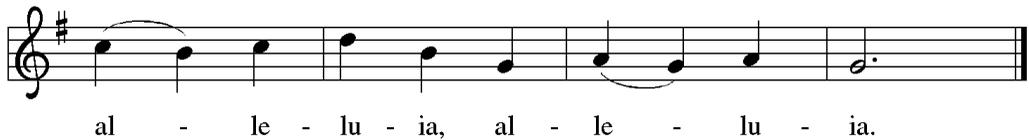
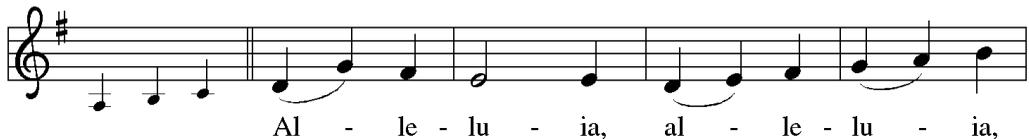
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek to do you good.”

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *all children are invited forward*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



Repeat alleluia



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 24:36-44 *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered

the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

After the reading ...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allen

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: "God in your Mercy";
 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,
 Bob Shaw, Patty Wagner, Michaela
 Nagel, Jane Campbell, Beth Anne
 Bodtorf

*To have someone added to the Prayer
 Guide-with their permission-please
 contact the church office. Names
 typically removed after 4 wks unless

MEAL *Please continue to stand*

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

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.**

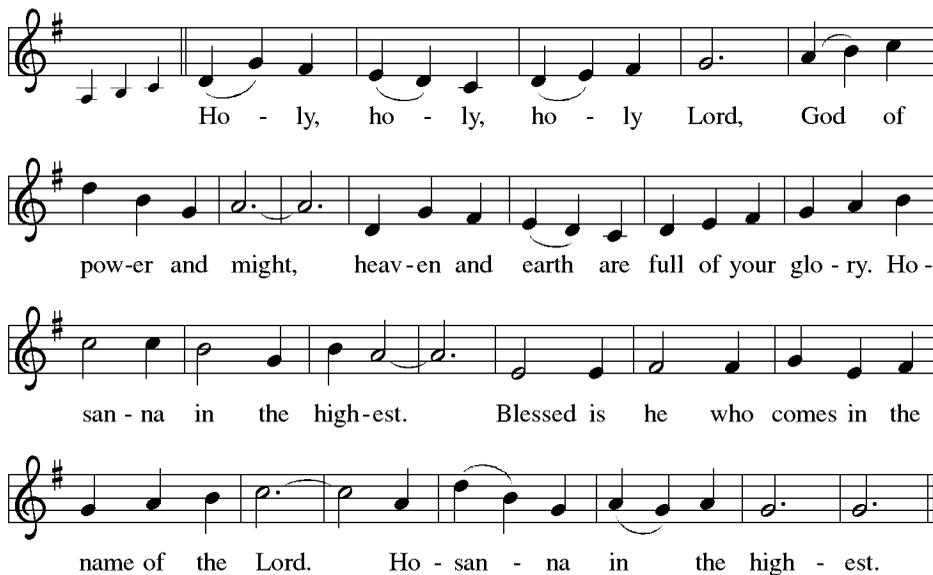
COMMUNION PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we.....

and join their unending hymn (sung):

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. 108 setting 1



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup.....We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among.....Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One.....one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

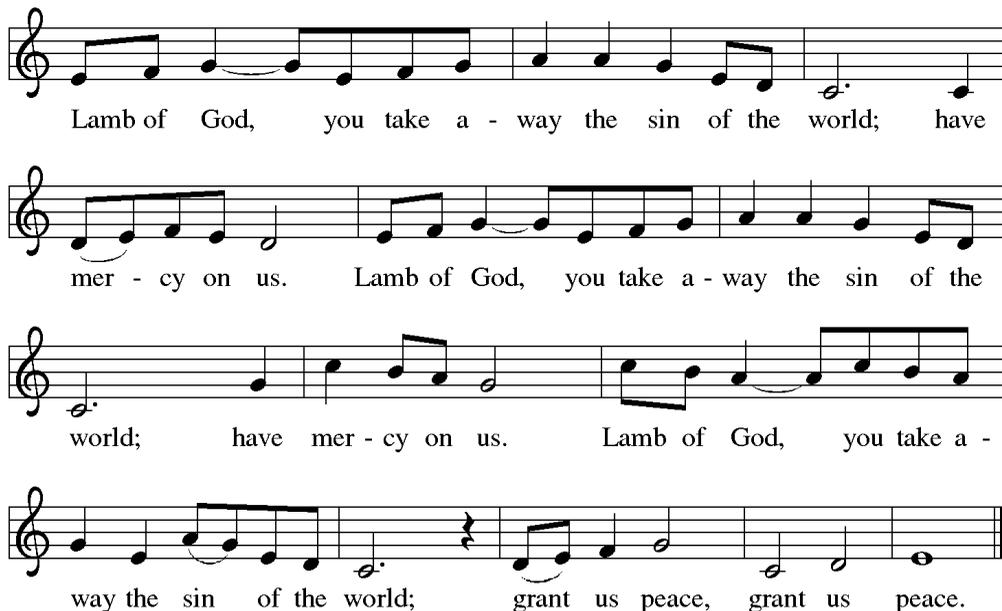
Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION

*If you feel comfortable at this time, all who are baptized are invited to come forward as directed from the front through the middle aisle. Children, if not already communing, may be brought forward for a blessing from the Pastor. Please hold both hands out to receive the wafer, then an Acolyte will hand you a cup. Please dispose in a near waste basket.



LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

Communion Distribution Music

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and “Emmanuel” Plainsong and Bob McGee, Arr. Mark Hayes
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Plainsong, 13th century, Arr. Larry Shackley
“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Timothy R. Matthews, Arr. Mark Hayes

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

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW # 244 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“People, Look East”

Trad. French Melody, Arr. Mary McDonald

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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 BULLETINS are presented by Harvey and Genevieve McCardle in thankfulness for all our children and grandchildren.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Anna Kuppel and Henry & Audrey Fultz by Mark & Pam, Natalie & Dylan, and Trent.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in loving memory of William and Betty Brought by Mark and Pam Fultz.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Debbie Kling in honor of my granddaughters.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Children (all ages) Room 204 of the education wing -*Godly Play*

Adult classes will meet in the Conference Room (Women of the Bible) and the Library. All classes begin at approximately 10:15 and last 45 min. -hr.



“GOD DOESN'T CALL THE EQUIPPED. HE EQUIPS THE CALLED.” (D. Krech) Are you called to serve on Church Council? Do you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to say “yes” to serving? The Nomination Committee is in the process of seeking members to serve on Church Council. Per our constitution, Church Council is made up of 9 to 12 active/voting members of the congregation serving a 3 year term with the ability to run 2 consecutive 3 year terms. Those going off Council at the end of this year are: Ed Stewart (end of 1st term), Cheryl Bressler (end of 1st term), Glen Hetrick (end of 1st term) Dave Borland (end of 2nd term) and Norma Fisher (end of 2nd term). Thank-you in advance for agreeing to serve.



GROCERY CARD SALES Cards (Weis/Giant) may be purchased after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The church earns 5% of the sales!

WEATHER ALERT If the Mifflin County School District is closed or closing due to snow and ice, the Church Office and any activities to be held in the church facility for the remainder of the day and evening are cancelled or postponed.

THE 2023 OFFERING envelopes have been placed on tables in the Fellowship Hall. All adult members and newly confirmed members are asked to pick up their envelopes before January 1, 2023. Please help distribute the envelopes to your family, friends, and neighbors. If you don't receive envelopes or notice any incorrect addresses, let the Church Office know ASAP. If you'd like to learn more about E-giving or setting up Re-occurring payments, let the office know.

THE 4th QUARTER SPECIAL OFFERING —> Shining Light & Mifflin County School District Homeless Assistance Program

CHRISTMAS OFFERING —> St. John's Helping Hands

UNDER ONE ROOF GIFT MATCHING OPPORTUNITY The children of Madeline and Dean Rupe are going to match any donation made to the Under One Roof campaign during the month of December up to a maximum of \$5000. The challenge is a memorial to their parents.



SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS are located by the offering plates. They may be placed in the offering plates or mailed to/dropped off at the Church Office- or just designate *Staff Gifts* when submitting. Donations must be collected by Sunday, December 4, 2022 so that they will be included in the gifts presented to the staff. (Please see any Council member with questions.) Thank you for helping to show our appreciation for the staff that serve St. John's Lutheran Church.

JOIN US DECEMBER 11th after the Christmas Pageant service for a potluck brunch, ham and chicken will be provided. A time for food and fellowship to celebrate the season and appreciation for Kristy, serving as church secretary.



OUR MEET & EAT GROUP will be meeting at *The Bread of Life Restaurant*, Mcalisterville Tuesday, December 6th at Noon. All women of the congregation are invited. If you need a ride, meet at the church at 11 a.m.



GIVING TREE PROGRAM The S.A. has provided 25 “Angel Tags” for on our tree located in the Main Lobby. Feel free to purchase whatever is affordable and you feel like getting. Gifts DO NOT need to be wrapped. **Please bring in items with Tag to the church office **no later than Dec. 12th** and we will arrange for items to be picked up. Thank you to each and everyone of you who have contributed to the Giving Tree Project. Families begin arriving on Dec. 16th for their goodies.

 **DECEMBER & JANUARY LUMINA CENTER HAM SANDWICH ORDERS** may be made directly through the center by calling [REDACTED] ask for Scott. December orders due by the 4th, Pick-Up December 9th. January orders due by the 8th, Pick-Up January 13th.



“HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS” Give to Shelter Services Please consider taking a little green house with you found at each entrance for donations to our local shelter. The Shelter houses over 100 different local individuals each year and helps with clothing, food and heat. Please return houses no later than December 21st prior to Christmas. Thank you!

Heating or Rental Assistance Help Info: Mifflin-Juniata Energy Bank is now available to assist local residents who meet the eligible criteria. Find out more from the church secretary. LIHEAP application can be made online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

ANNOUNCING! SPRING OF 2023 SJL BUS TRIP Experience the life-size Noah’s Ark



and Creation Museum! Ark Encounter is a one-of-a-kind themed attraction the whole family will enjoy, located in Williamstown, Kentucky. Seniors (60+) \$475/pp* Non Seniors \$488/pp* to include bus transportation, hotel, meals, ark and museum. \$100 Down payment is due by December 15th. If interested or to know more details, please contact Norma Fisher

[REDACTED]
*Based on a minimum of 40 passengers. (2) Queen beds per room

Worship
Schedule

- Dec 4th (Advent 2A) 9 AM Worship, 10:15 AM Sunday School
Dec 11th (Advent 3A) 9 AM Worship- Christmas Pageant, 10:15 AM , Potluck
 Brunch after worship (Fellowship & Thank You to our Secretary)
Dec 18th (Advent 4A) 9 AM Worship (*Christmas Cantata*), 10:15 AM Sunday
 School
Dec 24th (Nativity of Our Lord) Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 PM *elements of family
 service and candlelight service to be incorporated into one service*
Dec 25th (Christmas Day) 9 AM Worship, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Meetings/Events (see website *Events* for calendar also)

- Nov. 28 Dec. 5,12,19, 26
Wed. Nov 30 6 pm Celeste Choir, 6:30 pm Praise & Worship Choir, 7 pm Handbell
 Choir, 8 pm Chancel (Adult) Choir (every Wed. unless notified of change)
Mon Nov. 28 9 am Piecemakers
 7-8:30 pm LCBand F.H.
Wed Nov 30 6 pm Celeste Choir, 6:30 pm Praise & Worship Choir, 7 pm Handbell
 Choir, 8 pm Chancel (Adult) Choir (every Wed. unless notified of change)
Wed/Thurs 30th and Dec 1 Drop off donations for Cookie Walk
Sun Dec 4 3 pm “Let Christmas Ring” Lewistown Community Choir Concert
Tue Dec 6 11 am Meet and Eat *Bread of Life*, Lunch at Noon
Mon Dec 12 9 am Piecemakers
 7-8:30 LCBand Fellowship Hall
Mon Dec 19 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
Sun Dec 25 Financial records closed for 2022
Fri Dec 23 **OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas**

UPCOMING WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS				
Dates	Ushers	Communion Ass'ts	Crucifer	Acolytes
December	M. Barr (Head), A. & C.Thierwechter	N. Wilson, S. Noble, D. Noble	D. Noble	J. Phillips, M. Phillips
Christmas Eve 8pm	S. Burk*, A. & C. Thierwechter	N. Fisher, G. Miller (book bearer), S. Price	S. Price	Same as above