

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)

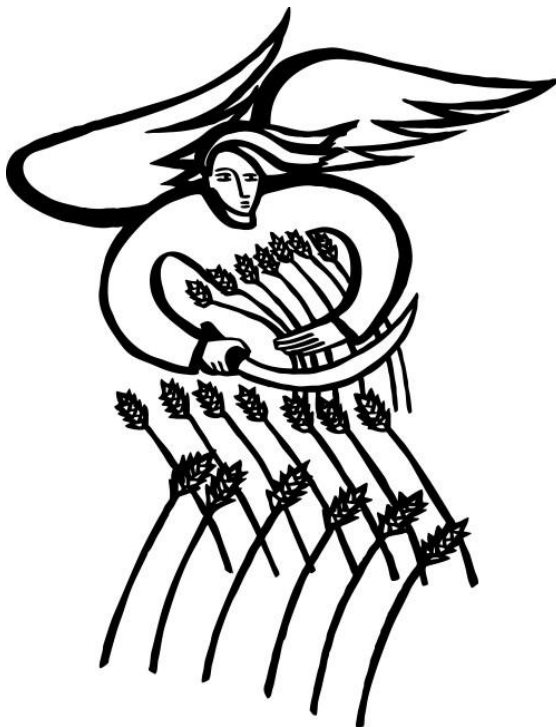
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, July 19th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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

Guest Pastor – Rev. Daniel Spigelmyer

Acolytes – Anderson Bitner, Dave Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Carrie Thierwechter, Holly Seby, Candace Sonnenberg

Cantor – Rev. Daniel Spigelmyer

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray

Crucifer – Dave Ray

Lay Lector – Gisele Miller

Ushers – Ed Stewart – head, Gloria Stewart, Deb Kling

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM “Sing to the Lord of Harvest” Johann Steurlein, Arr. Jan Sanborn 2003 Alfred 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,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"My Jesus" Anne Wilson, Jeff Pardo, Matthew West 2021 Jacobs Story Music
Josie Baughman - Vocal

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks
my life;**

they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;**

give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and
be put to shame;**

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For

in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13th Chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

After the reading ...

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

Please be seated.

Hymn of Response

Please see the back of your bulletin.

SERMON

Rev. Daniel Spigelmyer

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, Gail Ingram, Linda
Goss, 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, 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:

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) Inside back cover of Hymnal.

**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 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

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

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

“Let All Things Now Living” Traditional Welsh Melody, Arr. Shirley Brendlinger 2006 Alfred Pub. Co.

“To God Be the Glory” William H. Doane, Arr. Lloyd Larson, 2007 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” North American traditional. Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2018 Hal Leonard LLC

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. #681 “We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast” (#516 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Sharon Gibboney in memory of her parents.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Melissa and Jim Rosenberry in honor of the love and fellowship of our St. John's family.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS is given by Cindy and Steve Burk in honor and celebration of their grandson Rusty Leroy Burk's birthday on July 30th.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Sandy and Dennis Noble in honor of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

WE WELCOME Rev. Daniel Spigelmyer with us today. He will be co-celebrating the service with Pastor Allen.

TODAY'S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by Nikki Hiday and Katrina Martin.

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.

THE LUMINA CENTER discount cards will be expiring soon. From now till they expire at the end of August 2026 they have been reduced to **\$5 each**. The discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Look forward to the 2026-2027 cards coming soon.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING is on Tuesday, July 21st at 1:00pm.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE meeting is on **Thursday, July 23rd** at 10:00am here at the church. The primary focus will be the condition of the portico columns and potential solutions.

WELCA MEETING is on **Sunday, July 26th** following worship.

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, July 28th** at 6:30pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 11th** at 6:00pm.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING is on **Tuesday, August 18th** at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **July/August** are non-perishable foods and condiments.

Worship SCHEDULE

July 26 [Ninth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 2 [Tenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 9 [Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 16 [Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 23 [Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
August 30 [Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Thu. July 23 Property Committee meeting at 10:00am
Sun. July 26th WELCA meeting after worship.
Tue. July 28th SJLC council meeting 6:30pm.
Tue. August 11 Christian Ed meeting at 6:00pm.
Tue. August 18th Worship & Music Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Reminders for July

Acolytes – Anderson Bitner, Jameson Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Carrie Thierwechter, Holly Seby

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray – crucifer, Ginny Ray, Mary Barr

Ushers – Ed Stewart – head, Gloria Stewart

Money Counters – Sandy Noble, Carrie Stuftt

Lay Lectors

July 19 – Gisele Miller

July 26 – Ed Deamer

Reminders for August

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Jennifer Blessing

Communion Assistants – Dennis Noble – crucifer, Candace Sonnenberg, Gisele Miller

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

Money Counters – Andrew Thierwechter, Gloria Stewart

Lay Lectors

August 2 – Joyce Tanner

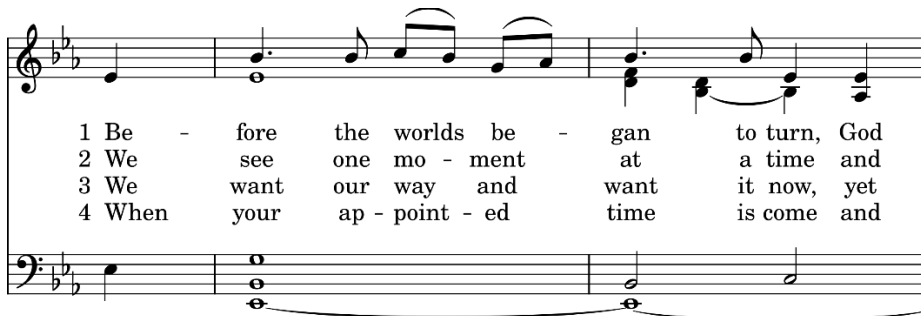
August 9 – Adele Craig

August 16 – Kim Crone

August 23 – Jim Rosenberry

August 30 – Sue Shawver

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*



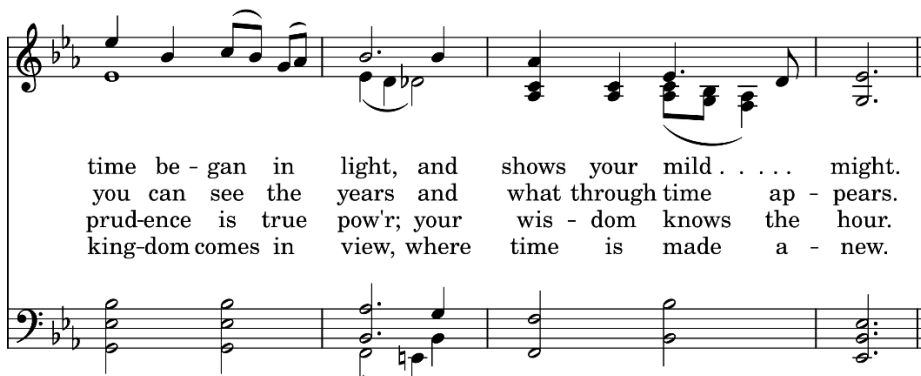
1 Be - fore the worlds be - gan to turn, God
 2 We see one mo - ment at a time and
 3 We want our way and want it now, yet
 4 When your ap - point - ed time is come and



called forth day and night; you taught the suns and
 judge what mer - it clears; we mark the good, con -
 come the time, we cow'r; we call for change, but
 Christ re - turns from you, then e - vil's reign shall



moons to burn, and bade the cha - os cease to churn. All
 demn the crime, and think our sight can mas - ter time. But
 will not bow when just - ice calls us act right now. Your
 be un - done, the faith - ful shine as does the sun. Your



time be - gan in light, and shows your mild might.
 you can see the years and what through time ap - pears.
 prud-ence is true pow'r; your wis - dom knows the hour.
 king-dom comes in view, where time is made a - new.