

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

**Main Office:** 717-248-8780 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:00AM-4:00 PM Fri. 8-Noon

stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

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

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

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**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, *Second Sunday in Lent /Setting 10***

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## INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

**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

*Acolytes* – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman, Melissa Rosenberry

*Communion Assistants* – Dave Phillips, Jenna Dudukovich, Tom Beaver

*Crucifer* – Dave Phillips

*Lay Reader* – Dave Phillips

*Ushers* – Jim Rosenberry – head, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter

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

**PRELUDE** “You Are My All in All” with “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Dennis Jerrigan Lowell Mason, Arr. Carol Tornquist, 1990 Shepherd's Heart Music.

### **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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

## ELW #335 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

### 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 (spoken)

P: Hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word: it saves us from despair.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

## RESPONSE HYMN

## ELW page #328 "Restore in Us, O God"

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Special Music

"Come and Kneel at the Cross" Don Besig and Nancy Price, 2006 Harold Flammer Music  
**Chancel Choir**

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

## WORD

### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

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

### Psalm: Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your <sup>l</sup> foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you <sup>l</sup> fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will <sup>l</sup> keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

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

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



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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"**

## **SHARING of GOD'S PEACE**

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words. *"Peace be with You."*

**"And also with you."**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie  
Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Toby  
Sweigart, Freda Hook, Lou  
Sonnenberg, 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.*

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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**

*The presiding minister continues:*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

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

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer (spoken)**

**Our Father, 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 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

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## 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

“When I Survey the Wonderful Cross” (Inspired by Bach’s “Air on the G String”) Lowell  
Mason, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2025 Alfred Music  
“At the Cross” Ralph E. Hudson Arr. Lavawan Riley, 2010 Lillenas Pub. Co.

## 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

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Sending***

### **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #638 “Blessed Assurance”**

### **Silent Meditation**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE “God Loved the World” (#323 in our hymnal)**

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### **DEDICATIONS**

**THIS WEEK'S BASKET** is presented by Giselle and Bob Miller in honor of their granddaughter Ciara Rankin's birthday.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Sue and Mike Shawver in honor of their grandsons Gage, Evan, Reese and Austin.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in honor of her great grandchildren Beau and Mia given by Robyn Mertz.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Genevieve and Harv McCardlel in honor and memory of loved ones.

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

**EASTER BASKETS** Once again, we are planning Easter Baskets for kids in need in our area. We are planning to be able to provide for over 50 kids this year. Easter baskets will be placed at each door, starting Sunday, March 1st. No donation is too small.

**MEET & EAT** ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the **OIP in Burnham**. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant at 12-Noon.

**AUCTION!** The Lumina Center will be holding a benefit auction, their biggest fundraiser of the year, on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at 8: 30am. The Lumina Center is a non-profit providing children of Mifflin County with free supervised activities in a nurturing environment. Presently they serve approximately 400 at risk children. Information flyers have been placed in the sanctuary and on the resource table.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** starts on Sunday March 8th. Don't forget to spring forward and set your clocks **ahead 1 hour** on **Saturday night March 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**EASTER FLOWERS** for sale. The forms to order this year's Easter Flowers are on the SJLC resource table. The cost is \$10.00 and orders are due **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Flowers being offered are white lilies, yellow, pink, white and purple tulips, and mini daffodils.

**THE KOINONIA SUNDAY** school class will begin bible study on the book of the Galatians starting on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Class will take place at SJLC in the conference room located near the office. Consider joining us as we explore and discuss the conflicts and challenges of the early Christian Church. Any questions please contact Dave Ray.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** We will be celebration communions on Maundy Thursday **evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If your son or daughter is in fifth grade, please see Pastor Allen to arrange for preparation meeting.

**SJLC COUNCIL** members who are recently coming off council, please be sure and turn in your key to the office or to Hillary Worley as soon as possible.

**THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** Committee is looking for someone to represent SJLC Bible School meetings bringing information back so we can stay involved. Meetings have begun so we are looking to pass on a new representative as soon as possible. Interested parties, please see Hillary Worley.

**THERE WILL BE no** Ham Sandwich sales for the month of March due to the Lumina Center auction. Sandwich sale will continue in April.

**THE BARANABAS BROTHERS** hoagie sale is on **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** at SJLC. Hoagies are \$5.00 and orders are due **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet on the church window. Any questions please contact Steve Burk.

**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER 2026** flyer with summer programs, registration and scholarship information have been placed at the entrances of the sanctuary and on the resource table. Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome, fun-filled programs for summer adventures.

**LENTEN OFFERING** Rainbow Summer

**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**

**SJLC COUNCIL MEETING** on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **March/April** are dish detergent, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products and hand turn can openers.

**HAM SANDWICH SALE (Please see announcement above for March)** is on the second Friday of every month at SJLC. Orders are due the Monday before. Please see Janet Deamer with any questions.

# Worship SCHEDULE

March 8 [Third Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
March 15 [Fourth Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
March 22 [Fifth Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
March 29 [Palm Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School  
April 2 [Maundy Thursday] 7:00pm Service  
April 3 [Good Friday] 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service

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

Tue. March 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at 6:30pm.  
Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.  
Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

## **Reminders for March**

**Acolytes** – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman, Melissa Rosenberry

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Phillips – crucifer, Jenna Dudukovich, Tom Beaver

**Ushers** – Jim Rosenberry- head, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Theirwechter

**Money Counters** – Cheryl Bressler, Genevieve McCardle

## **Lay Lectors**

March 1 – Dave Phillips

March 8 – Youth

March 15 – Kim Crone

March 22 – Adele Craig

March 29 – Justice Mills

## January Financials

	Actual January 2025	Actual January 2026	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Budget Variance 2025
Current Envelope Offering	15,072	18,021	17,917	104
Current Loose Plate	141	153	250	(97)
Sunday School Offering**	92	95	89	6
<b>Total Regular Offerings Received</b>	<b>15,305</b>	<b>18,269</b>	<b>18,256</b>	<b>13</b>
Benevolence - Faith Commitment to Synod*	2,402	1,385	1,500	(115)
Benevolence - Other	40	30	-	30
<b>Total Benevolence Received</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>(85)</b>
Capital Improvements - Regular Offering	755	800	-	-
Capital Improvements - Organ Refurbishment	35	1,385	-	-
<b>Total Capital Improvement Offering Received</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>*Receipts are disbursed to Synod Monthly</i>				
<i>** Sunday School Offering is 9 months</i>				

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-1, John 4:5-42*