

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

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.stjohnslewestown.com>

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

Sunday, February 15th, 2026, Transfiguration of Our Lord /Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

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 – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

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

Cantor – Nikki Hidlay

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

Crucifer – Dave Ray

Lay Reader – Jenna Dudukovich

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

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

PRELUDE "Fairest Lord Jesus" Silesian Folk Melody, Arr. Fred Bock, 1991 Fred Bock Music 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 #315 “How Good, Lord to Be Here”

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

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through 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

“Walkin in the Light” Kathleen Thomerson, Arr. Andy M. Albritton and Dave Black, 2007
CELEBRATION

Chancel Choir with Solo by Sue Shawver

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the

appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites.¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?

³ “Let us break their yoke,” they say;
“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

**4 God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

**6 “As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

**10 And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

12 lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 17th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there

appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allen

INSTALLATION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following persons, having been elected to the Council of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. (*Read names of council members*)

P: In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of the church. Through Word and Sacrament, you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized. (The congregation stands.)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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. (The congregation is seated.)

P: St. Paul writes: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all" (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

You have been elected to a position of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that the love of Christ is shared with the community around us.

You are to be diligent in your work of serving the Lord who empowers you and to find ways to glorify him.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: will you faithfully carry out the duties of a council member?

R: I will, with the God's help.

P: People of God, I ask you, will you support these, your sisters in Christ in their task, and will you undergird their efforts with your prayers?

R: We will, with the God's help.

P: I now declare you installed as a council member of this congregation, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God bless you and your work together in God's holy name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end with: "Merciful God"
And the Congregational response is:
"receive our prayer"

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.

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.

Communion Music

“How Beautiful” Twila Paris, Arr. Lloyd Larson, 1990 Aroise Music

“Be Thou My Vision” Irish Melody, Arr. Larry Shackley 2014 Hope Pub. Co.

“Immortal Invisible” Welsh Melody, Arr. Phillip Keveren, 2003 Hal Leonard Corp.

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 #671 “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Oh Wonderous Image, Vison Fair” (#316 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Galen Stees in memory of Reno and Agnes Stees.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Cheryl and Ed Bressler in memory of Cheryl's sister, Carol D. Kirkner.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of the eternal love of God by Paula and Charlie Hershberger.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Ginny and Dave Ray in honor of their grandchildren.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION There will be a brief Christian Ed meeting **today** after worship

ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS are Hillary Worley, president; Nikki Hidlay, vice president; Katrina Martin, secretary; Adele Craig, Norma Fisher, Mariah King, Mindy Stuck, Carrie Stufft, and Scott Welham.

ASH WEDNESDAY service is at **7:00pm** on **Wednesday, February 18th**.

PASTOR ALLEN will be out of the office on **Thursday, February 19th**.

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 matches 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. Try for all that you do. Pastor Allen.

NO CHOIR practice on Ash Wednesday **February 18th**.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS will conduct their monthly Breakfast meeting on **Saturday, February 21st**, at the Church Fellowship Hall starting at **8am**. Guest speaker is Sherri Bickert, Director of the Lumina Center she will present a dynamic presentation on the many programs and activities provided to area children in a Christian environment. Please plan to attend a morning of Christian Fellowship, King's Breakfast and presentation by Director Bickert demonstrating great leadership and providing God's children with guidance at the Lumina Center. Thanks. Steve Burk.

THE RED CROSS blood drive will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, February 25th** 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.

AUCTION! The Lumina Center will be holding a benefit auction, their biggest fundraiser of the year, on **Saturday, March 7th** 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.

THE BARANABAS BROTHERS hoagie sale is on **Friday, March 13th** at SJLC. Hoagies are \$5.00 and orders are due **Sunday, March 8th**. 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.

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.

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, February 24th** at 6:30pm.

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. Please see Janet Deamer with any questions.

Worship SCHEDULE

February 18 [Ash Wednesday] 7:00pm.

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

March 1 [Second Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. February 24th 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 February

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Shaneen 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 22 – Tom Beaver

Reminders for March

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman

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 – TBA

March 8 – Youth

March 15 – Kim Crone

March 22 – Adele Craig

March 29 – Justice Mills

Next Sunday Readings: *Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11*