

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, November 16th, 2025, 9:00AM ✦ *Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Setting 3*



Strength, Soul and Spark: Celebrating the Gifts of Women

2025 Thankoffering Service

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 – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Anne Spicer

Cantor – Geneva Kelly

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich

Crucifer – Dave Ray

Lay Reader – Patty Farley, Hillary Worley, Gisele Miller

Ushers – Dennis Noble – head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

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

Today we are celebrating women of faith. We look to women in the bible as mentors and role models.

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "I've Got Peace Like a River" Spiritual, Arr. Cindy Berry 2015 Alfred Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sue Shawver

GATHERING

*Please stand as you are able. Congregational responses are in **Bold**.*

Red Hymnal (ELW) will be used for parts of the service.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Sue Shawver

We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer and sustainer.

Amen.

Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold.

We give you thanks, O God,

For at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good.

We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal.

You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael.

You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus, leading Miriam to shout out in song.

You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own.

You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding.

You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts.

Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #824 "This Is my Father's World"

GREETING

Gloria Stewart

The grace of our Lord Jesus, 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

This is the Feast

ELW page #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gloria Stewart

God of Glory, we are gathered today in your presence to celebrate and give thanks for all of the gifts and talents given to women. While we recognize the abundance we have, we also recognize the struggles of women in our own country and around the world. Sometimes these struggles are voiced or are internal conflicts that only You know about. Lord, bring peace and joy to our hearts today. Allow us to fully absorb the presence of you and of the community of strong women surrounding us. **Amen.**

Special Music

“My Life Is in You, Lord”

Daniel Gardner 1986 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

Geneva Kelly - vocal

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Nikki Hidlay

WORD

Naomi and Ruth (soul). Ruth 1:7-16

Patty Farley

Ruth is a story of deep faithfulness, empathy, and compassion amid adversity. The story’s soul demonstrates the power of love to triumph over hopelessness and to bridge great differences. For women like Ruth and Naomi, whose empathy heals generational wounds, we give thanks.

⁷So Naomi set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?...No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

After the reading is shared:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

God's compassionate creativity (spark) Psalm 139:1-14

Hillary Worley

The spark of the divine dwells within each of us. For the cosmic creativity of God, whose presence accompanies and inspires all, we give thanks.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down

and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

**⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,**

**¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

**¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"^[a]**

**¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The women who bled for twelve years (strength).

Gisele Miller

Matthew 9:18-25

Through a bold woman, Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power by accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life. For unnamed women who fight to be seen and heard, we give thanks.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

18 While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her

he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

After the Gospel is shared:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Ashlie Crosson

Apostles' Creed

Mina Phillips

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

Mina Phillips

In solidarity with your people from every nation and knit together with all of creation, we boldly pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.

Inspire your church, like Ruth and Naomi, to extend arms of compassion and empathy in times of challenge. Equip communities to be welcoming, to show mercy, and to lean into relationships so that all people may know your care. God our soul,
Hear our prayer.

Guide leaders to reflect the spark of your divine wisdom. Open eyes to see the goodness of your created world and encourage the tender care of those cast aside. Reveal yourself in unexpected places and in the leadership of those called to help. God our Spark,
Hear our prayer.

Bring healing, like the woman who bled for twelve years, to all who are suffering. Give strength to the weary, uplift the lowly, and amplify the voices of those quieted. Breathe new life into forgotten places, end wars, rejuvenate lands, and uplift spirits. God our Strength,
Hear our prayer.

Trusting in your love for us, we offer these prayers and whatever else weighs heavy upon us to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

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, Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Darlene Varner, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, and the Call Committee.

*To have someone added to the

MEAL *Please continue to stand.*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '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.'

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

Mina Phillips

God of Abundance,

You create goodness in everything we offer. Use these gifts to bless the world. Strengthen ministries, empower leaders, and inspire generosity so that all may know your love. Reveal this love to us once again as we gather at your table that we might embody your compassionate care in all we do. 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; 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:

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

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

“Morning Has Broken” Gaelic Melody, Arr. Phillip Keveran 2018 Hal Leonard LLC
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” American Melody from John Wyeth’s “Repository of
Sacred Music, “1813 Arr. Joel Raney, 2019 Lorenz Pub. Co.
“Love Lifted Me” Howard E. Smith Arr. Lloyd Larson, 2016 Lorenz Pub. Co.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Sue Shawver

Generous God,

We give thanks!

You’ve gathered us together across generations and created a place at the table for each of us.

We give thanks!

Strengthen us with this meal of your love poured out, fill us with compassion, and nourish us until we meet again.

We give thanks!

In the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Sue Shawver

Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose. Bless the women of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward. May your love be our guide, and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #840 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Pastor Allen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” (#681 in our hymnal)

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. **NOTICE: Audio/Video recording** When you enter a St. John's Evangelical Lutheran worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Please see notes at entrances for further details. Live-Streaming will continue as needed- if you are behind camera, you will not be on camera.*

DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Janet and Ed Deamer in honor of Richard and Faye Heinrich.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Anne and Art Spicer in honor of loved ones.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of her grandchildren given by Norma Fisher.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Susie Croyle in loving memory of her husband Ron Croyle.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

THANKOFFERING! Today is our **48th Thankoffering Worship Service**. We are happy to have Miss Ashlie Crosson, the 2025 U.S. National Teacher of the Year, as our guest speaker. Please enjoy all our Women helpers as we worship together. Remember that the Thankoffering Boxes and Envelopes are out again today. Women of the ELCA are constantly grateful for your support in all of our work!

WINTER NEWSLETTER Please submit any information for the upcoming newsletter by **Tuesday, November 18th** to Susan in the office. Thank you!

PIES, PIES, PIES! Are you cooking Thanksgiving Day Dinner? Do you have all the work to do? Are you tired of making the desserts? Well, save yourself from some of the work. Let Friends of the Organ help you. We are making pies, pumpkin, apple and pecan pies all for the nominal price of \$10.00 for each pie ordered. Order sheets are on the office window, and 2 sheets are circulating through the congregation. **Orders** will be taken **(today) November 16**, Pies will be baked on Saturday, November 22nd and can be **picked up Sunday, November 23** in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Please see Darwin Guyer for more information.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you give through the via electronic giving or bank/retirement fund check and wish to have envelopes for the Special Offerings please contact Sue Shawver.

SJLC OFFICE HOURS The office will be closed on **Thursday, November 27th** and **Friday, November 28th** for Thanksgiving. Please submit Bulletin announcements by Wednesday November 26th. Thank you.

THE GIVING TREE tags have all generously been taken. Please return your wrapped gifts to the church by **November 30th**.

THE GOVERNMENT shutdown and the loss of SNAP benefits many in our community are struggling. If you can, please consider donating non-perishables to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

THE 2025-2026 STEWARDSHIP Campaign is underway. Forms will be placed at each entrance of the sanctuary and placed on the resource table. If you've volunteered for the same things year after year we ask you to re-enlist every year so that we know you are still interested. Please complete and return the form to the church office no later than **Sunday, November 16th**. This way The Stewardship Committee can have an updated list of volunteers in a timely manner. Thank you for volunteering and helping SJLC get off to a good start in 2026.

LUMINA HAM SANDWICH SALE change of date for November. The next ham sandwich sale is on **Friday, November 21st**. Orders are due on **Monday, November 17th**. The cost is \$4.00 and there is an order form posted on the SJLC Office window. If you have any questions, please see Mary B.

MEET & EAT The ladies' December luncheon is Tuesday December 2nd at The Bread of Life restaurant in McAlisterville at 12-Noon. Please call Jenny McCardle at 717-248-1327.

ATTENTION: COOKIE BAKERS & FUDGE MAKERS are needed for this year's Festival of Ice Cookie Walk. Best sellers include chocolate & peanut butter fudge, snickerdoodles, peanut butter cookies, peanut blossoms, and sugar cookies. This year's Festival of Ice theme is "Christmas Candy Land". **Donations can be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, December 3rd from 9 AM – 4 PM and from 9 AM to Noon on Thursday, December 4th.** The Cookie Walk will be held at the Old Mifflin County Courthouse Thursday, December 4th & Friday, December 5th from 5-9 PM. **Volunteers are also needed on Thursday and Friday evenings to sell cookies.** Contact Carrie Thierwechter at (717) 994-5615 if you have any questions. **Please label your donations with your name and what you've made.** All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support of this St. John's tradition.

POINSETTIAS!! It's time to order Poinsettias! Poinsettia color choices are white, red, pink, and jingle bell. The cost is \$9 per flower. Order forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please put completed forms and payment in the lock box. **Orders are due by Sunday December 7, 2025.**

THE LUMINA CENTER council seat is no longer vacant Janet Deamer will be representing SJLC as the new council member for the Lumina Center. Ed Deamer will be acting as an alternate member.

GODLY PLAY is an amazing experience for all ages where scriptures and parables "come

alive" where children learn and experience their own spirituality through wonder and play. Godly Play will meet after services in the Godly Playroom in the Sunday School wing. The dates are as follows: **Sunday, January 11th, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th**. All are welcome!

FOURTH QUARTER SPECIAL OFFERING will go towards Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING will go towards Camper Scholarships at Camp Mount Luther.

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.

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 is on **Tuesday, November 25th**, at 6:30pm

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for **November/December** are **Holiday Meal** items such as: canned ham, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, pie filling, pie crust mix, cake mix, and icing.

ATTENTION COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS it's that time of year to submit your yearly report for the SJLC Annual report which is due December 31st. Therefore, the administration office asks that all reports be submitted via email, US mail, or in writing no later than Friday, **December 5th, 2025**. Thank you.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

November 23 [Christ the King] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
November 30 [First Day of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
December 7 [Second Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
December 14 [Third Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
December 21 [Fourth Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. 11/25 SJLC council meeting at 6:30pm.
Wed 11/19 Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.
Sun. 11/16 Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am
Sun. 01/11, 02/8, 03/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Paly Sunday School

Reminders for November

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin
Altar Guild Volunteers – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Anne Spicer
Communion Assistants – Dave Ray - crucifer, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich
Ushers – Dennis Noble – head, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling
Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Ed Aurand
Lay Lectors
November 16 – Ed Deamer
November 23 – Gisele Miller
November 30 – Anne Spicer

Reminders for December

Acolytes – Dorian Phillips, Mina Phillips
Altar Guild Volunteers – Sue Shawver, Terri Limes, Pam Fultz, Janet Deamer
Communion Assistants – Justice Mills – crucifer, Mary Barr, Gisele Miller
Ushers – Norma Fisher – head, Dennis Crossgrove, Hillary Worley
Money Counters – Barry Stuck, Sue Phillips
Lay Lectors
December 7 – Hillary Worley
December 14 – Youth
December 21 – Cantata
December 28 – Tom Beaver

Next Sunday Readings: *Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43*