

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, April 26th, 2026, 9:00 AM ✦ *Fourth Sunday of Easter / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

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 – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

Altar Guild Volunteers – Pam Tressler, Katrina Martin, Meagan Earnest

Cantor – Geneva Kelly

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer

Crucifer – Scott Price

Lay Lector – Hillary Worley

Ushers – Scott Welham – head usher, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Arr. Douglas E. Wagner 1996 Lorenz Pub. Co.

"Handbell Choir"

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.*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #782 “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

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

Glory to God

ELW pg. #139 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” American Melody: John Wyeth’s “Repository of Sacred Music” Arr. Arnold B. Sherman, 20025 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Handbell Choir

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today’s reading is a description of life in the community following Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God’s people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds

to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our

sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

After the reading ...

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: "Merciful God"

And the Congregational response is:

"receive 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, Peter Marsh, Gail
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson,
Joanne Troutman, Toby Sweigart,
Freda Hook, 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

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. #144 Setting 3

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

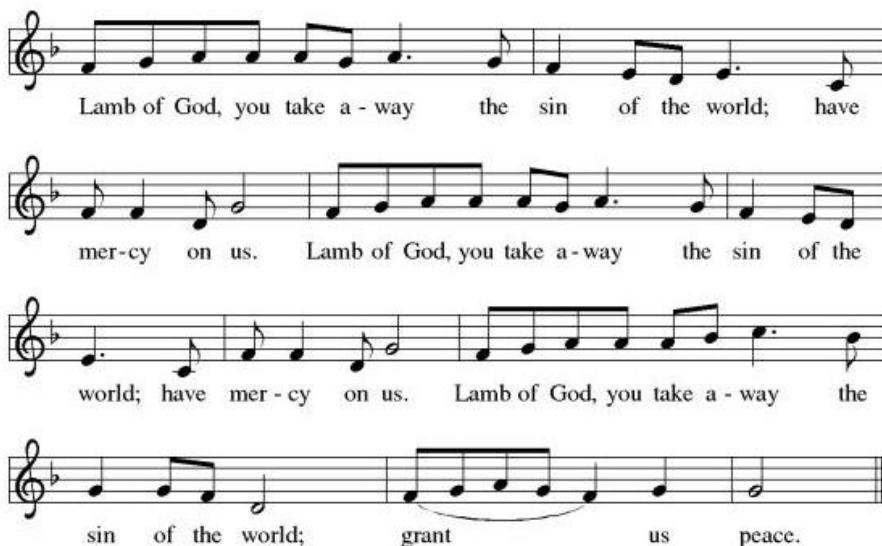
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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

“Shepherd Me, O God” Marty Haugen, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 GIA Pub, Inc.

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead us” (In the setting of J.S. Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze”)

William B. Bradburg, 1995 Pilot Point Music

“The Lord’s My Shepherd” James Leith Macbeth Bain, Arr. Larry Shackley 2001 Hope Pub. Co.

SENDING OF HOME COMMUNIONS

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

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #789 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia !

POSTLUDE “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (#502 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Darla Reish-Shawver in memory of Father's and Mother's.

TODAY'S BASKET is presented by Nancy and Dirk Craig in loving memory of their son Avery Craig.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Anne and Art Spicer in appreciation of Patty Loudenslager's efforts to add meaningful music to our service.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of Bob Reeder given by Brenda Reeder

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Diane and Ed Stewart in honor of their grandchildren Aspen, Everly, Jackson, Ella, Sadie and Mia.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

PASTOR ALLEN AND JOY will be on vacation from **April 29th through May 9th**. If there is a need for Pastoral care, please call Nikki Hidlay at 717-994-6058.

SJLC ORGAN CONCERT Please plan to join us on **Friday, May 1st at 7:00pm** as we rededicate this magnificent instrument to the Glory of God and His service. The evening will feature area organists, vocalists and other performers as well as SJLC director of music/organist Patty Loudenslager. Following the concert there will be a time of light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

ORGAN CONCERT FELLOWSHIP will follow in the Fellowship Hall with the Barnabas Brothers providing Chicken and Ham Sandwich squares, Celebration Cake and beverages. The **Congregation is asked** to provide baked goods, snacks and fruit as we anticipate a great attendance at the concert and possibly 60 to 80 attendees at the Fellowship. Please assist the Barnabas Brothers in providing refreshments and a time of Christian Fellowship for Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. If you have any questions, please contact Patty or Scott Price.

MEET & EAT ladies luncheon is on **Tuesday, May 5th** at 12-Noon at Juniata Junction. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant. Please call Jennie if you'd like to ride along at 717-248-1327.

THE MOTHER DAUGHTER banquet dinner will be on **Saturday, May 9th at 6:00pm**. Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults, Children 6 to 12, \$4.00, and under age 6 free. Tickets are available to purchase in the church office starting on Tuesday, March 31st. There will be more information about the banquet to come.

REGISTRATION forms for Camp Mount Luther are on the resource table. The church will cover 75% of Tier 3 Pricing this year. Please register online **by May 15th**.

WELCA SPRING FLOWER TEA and fashion show at SJLC on **Saturday, May 16th** from 11:00am to 2:00pm in the social room. Tickets are \$12.00 If you would like to come, please see Sue Phillips.

JOIN CAMP Mount Luther for workday Saturday, May 16th at 9:00am to get camp ready for summer. There will projects for all ages and Abilities. To register or for more information please call 570-922-1587.

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.

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.

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 will be available for purchase in **August**. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community.

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, April 28th** at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **May/June** are shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bars of soap.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

May 3 [Fifth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
May 10 [Sixth Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
May 17 [Seventh Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
May 24 [Day of Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
May 31 [The Holy Trinity] 9:00am Worship
June 7 [Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
June 14 [Third Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. April 28th 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 May

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Peggy Finkenbiner, Sharon Phillips, Jen Johnson

Communion Assistants – Hillary Worley – crucifer, Norma Fisher, Gisele Miller

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

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Helen Rager

Lay Lectors

May 3 – Ed Deamer

May 10 – MCHS Cantare

May 17 – Joyce Tanner

May 24 – Sue Shawver

May 31 – Cora Rankin

Next Sunday's Readings: *Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14*

