

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, October 18th, 2026, 9:00AM *Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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 – Allen Hulslander

Acolytes – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Betty Weaver, Janet Deamer

Cantor – Sue Shawver

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman

Crucifer – Ed Deamer

Lay Lector – Adele Craig

Ushers – Scott Welham – head, Josh Pennepacker, Heidi Welham

Media & Production – Grant and Carrie Stuftt, Nancy Ressler, Annette Rager

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" (Based on J.S. Bach's Organ "Prelude in F") Rowland H. Prichard, Arr. John F. Wilson, 1994 Hope pub. Co.

WELCOME AND 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 pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the
promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #825 “You Servants of God”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW pg. #138 Setting 3

This Is the Feast

ELW pg. #140 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"At This Table"

Allen Pote & Shirley Erena Murray, 2006 Hope Pub. Co.

Sue Shawver – Vocal

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**
³ Declare God’s glory among the nations
and God’s wonders among all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the**

peoples with equity.”

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

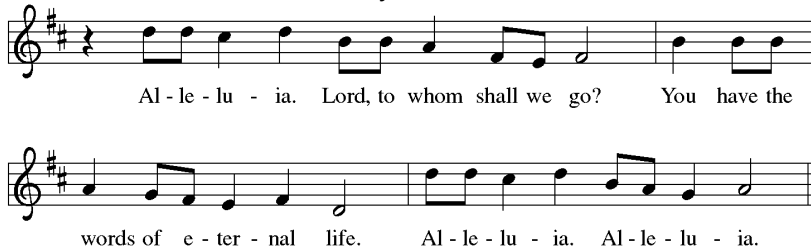
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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.**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Darwin Guyer, Steve Yohn, Patti Niemond, the Rankin family and the Call Committee.

*To have someone added to the Prayer Guide-with their permission-please contact the church office.

Dedication of Seafarer Bags

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.

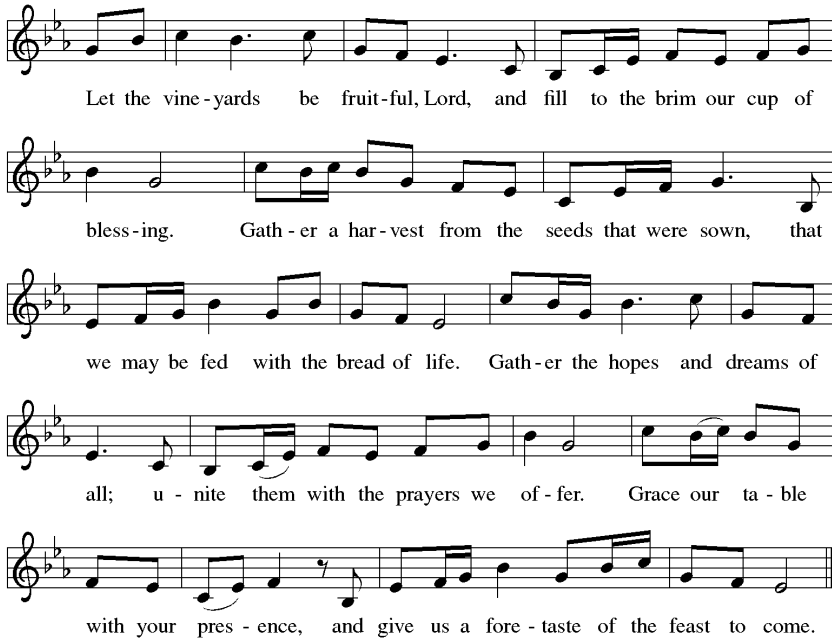
Simply say the words. *"Peace be with You."*

"And also with you."

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

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our
neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus
Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious
resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of
angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (Inspired by Hayden’s “The Heavens are Telling”)
Gesangbuch der Herzog”, Wittenburg, Arr. Faye Lopez, 2017 Alfred Music

“He Keeps Me Singing” Luther B. Bridgers, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“How Can I Keep from Singing” Robert Lowry, Arr. Larry Shackley, 2016 Lorenz 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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW pg. #686 “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (#841 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Robyn Mertz in memory of John P. Mertz.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Patti and Larry Niemond in honor of loved ones.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of Linda McCormick DOB 10/23/41 given by her husband Bob McCormick.

THE COMMUNION WINE is given by Scott Price in memory of Esther Henry and Helen Price.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

WELCA MEETING is **today** after worship.

CHRISTMAS-AT SEA SACHELS - We are very pleased to announce that to date we have 35 seafarer satchels signed up for, with more available for those who might wish to fill one. Pastor Allen will be blessing the Seafarer Satchels **today, October 18th**, so please be sure your satchel is returned by that date. We will be taking the satchels to the synod office the following week. Thank you so very much for your generous participation in this project. Paula Hershberger & Joy Hulslander.

WE THANK everyone who participated in the Seafarer project. With Christ's love, you will touch the lives of 41 Seafarer's who are away from their families at Christmas. Serving with you in Christ's ministry, Joy and Paula.

FIRST UNITED Methodist Church welcomes everyone to attend their Grand Celebration of Music **today October 18th** at 3:00pm. Their address is 200 E. Third St. Lewistown.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet next **Sunday, October 25th** immediately after worship.

THE SJLC ANNUAL Reformation Recital is on **Sunday, October 25th at 3:00pm**. There will be a variety of performers including keyboard, vocals and dance. Following the recital our very own Barnabas Brothers will be providing a time of fellowship. Please plan to attend this wonderful afternoon of music.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS will proudly provide chicken & ham sandwich squares, cake and beverages after the Reformation Recital on **Sunday, October 25th**, in the Fellowship Hall. We anticipate great attendance, and we respectfully ask the congregation to consider bringing a dessert or snack item. Please plan to attend this very special recital!

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY and Evangelism Committees will be sponsoring home delivered meals monthly for our shut-ins or any older member who doesn't cook much and would like a meal! We would also like to deliver to anyone with a recent illness etc. Please let Nikki Hiday, Norma Fisher or the office know if you would like to be added to the delivery list. Meals will be ready for delivery after church on Sundays so can be taken home then as well. If members know of a neighbor or congregational member that would benefit from this ministry, please add them to the list! The next **delivery date** is **Sunday, October 25th**. If you would like to help make food or delivery meals and haven't signed up yet, please see Nikki or text me at 717-994-6058. Thank you!

TRIVIA QUESTION How many volunteers does it take to prepare for and assist with worship every Sunday? If you guessed **14 to 16 volunteers**, you are correct. Our volunteers for every **Sunday** worship service are as follows: **Media** (sound system, camera and live streaming) - 2 to 3 volunteers, **Altar Guild** - 2 to 3 volunteers, **Acolytes** - 2 volunteers, **Communion Assistant** - 2 volunteers, **Crucifer** - 1 volunteer, **Lay Lector** - 1 volunteer, **Ushers** - 3 volunteers and **Cantor** - 1 volunteer. The support these volunteers provide is invaluable to Pastor Allen and the congregation. When Stewardship Forms are available this Fall, please

consider volunteering. If you have any questions about what's involved, please see me. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work." Sue Shawver- Worship and Music Committee

THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN is underway. Forms are at each entrance of the sanctuary and on the resource table. If you've volunteered for the same thing 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 15th**. 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 2027.

VETERANS DAY SJLC would like to honor our congregational members who are veterans for Veteran's Day **November 8th**. We are looking for pictures, names and years of service. Please give or email carrie@kishvet.com by **October 31st**.

HOAGIE SALE The Barnabas Brothers next hoagie sale is on **Friday, November 13th**. Orders are due on **Sunday, November 8th**. The cost is \$6.00ea. Any questions please contact Steve Burk.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows: 11/08, 12/06, 01/10, 02/07, 03/07, 04/04, 05/02. All are welcome!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH will be hosting "**Messiah**" **Sunday, December 6th** at 3:00pm with Fred Benner as the Conductor. Rehearsals will be on Sunday's at 3:00pm beginning on **November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**. Any singers who are interested please join us!

4th QUARTER OFFERING has been designated for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING has been designated for 1/2 camperships and 1/2 energy bank.

PRAYER CHAIN If anyone would like to be added as one of our **Prayer Warriors** to the prayer chain, please contact Gloria Stewart at 717-348-3935.

ACOLYTES We have had adults show interest in being acolytes. If this is something you may be interested in, please see Norma Fisher to be added to the schedule.

NEW LUMINA CENTER community restaurant cards are here! Cards sell for **\$10** and have discounts for **20 local restaurants**. New cards will be effective August 31, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Please see Janet Deamer or Susan C. in the church office.

COMMUNION ROBES If your communion robe is in need of cleaning (i.e. wine) please place it in the laundry basket in the robe room.

SJLC OFFICE lunch hour Tuesday and Thursday is between 11:30am -12:30pm.

LOST & FOUND there is a lost and found box in the lobby on the shelf above the coat rack. Please check for any items that you may be missing.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING is on **Tuesday, October 27th, at 6:30pm.**

LUMINA HAM SANDWICH sales have been moved to the **third Friday in November** (20th). Orders are due the Sunday before and sandwiches are \$4.00ea.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **October** are cereal, breakfast bars, sugar, shelf stable milk, powdered milk.

THANK YOU. Dear Church Family, thank you for the prayers, kindness, and support you have shown our family during this time following the accident. These past weeks have been trying, but we have felt God's comfort through your calls, messages, meals and quiet acts of care. Your prayers mean more to us than we can express. We are grateful to be part of a church family that stood beside us when we needed it most. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we take each day as it comes. With heartfelt gratitude, The Rankin's, Miller's and Norma

Worship SCHEDULE

October 25 [Reformation Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 1 [All Saints Day] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 8 [Twenty- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play

November 15 [Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 22 [Christ the King] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

November 29 [First Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

December 6 [Second Sunday of Advent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Godly Play

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. October 27th Council Meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. Choir practice 6:00pm

Reminders for October

Acolytes – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Betty Weaver, Janet Deamer

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman

Ushers – Scott Welham

Money Counters – Cheryl Bressler, Sandy Noble

Lay Lectors

October 25 – Josie Baughman

Reminders for November

Acolytes – Gisele Miller, Candy Sonnenberg

Altar Guild Volunteers – Sharon Gibboney, Collette Croyle, Keira Martin

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Jenna Dudukovich

Ushers – Dennis Noble, Sandy Noble, Deb Kling

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Scott Welham

Lay Lectors

November 1 – Jim Rosenberry

November 8 – Youth

November 15 – Gisele Miller

November 22 – Ed Deamer

November 29 – Cora Rankin

Next Sunday's Readings: *Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36*