

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)

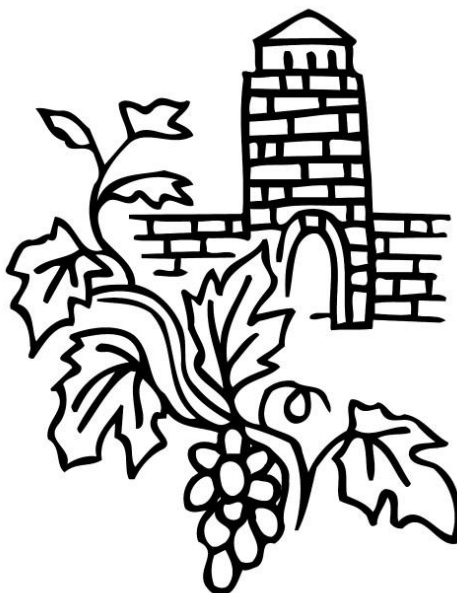
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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

Sunday, October 11th, 2026, 9:00AM *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost / Setting 3*



INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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.

Youth Sunday!

SERVING TODAY

Pastor – Allen Hulslander

Acolytes – Dave Phillips, Leif Phillips

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

Cantor – Geneva Kelly

Communion Assistants – Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer, Josie Baughman

Crucifer – Ed Deamer

Lay Lector – Geneva Kelly

Ushers – Mina Phillips, Leif Phillips, Geneva Kelly

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM "Your Wings" Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram, Paul Mabury, Lauren Strahm, 2018
CENTRICSONGS

Mina Phillips - Vocal

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. #462 “Now We Join in Celebration”

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

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

"Hymn of Promise" Natalie Sleeth 1986 Hope Pub. Co.

Sue Shawver – Vocal

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**
¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

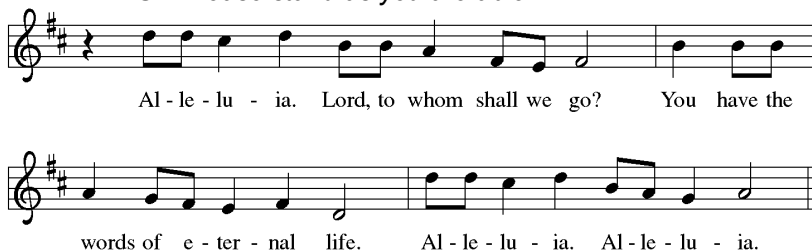
⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 Matthew the 21st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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.

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.

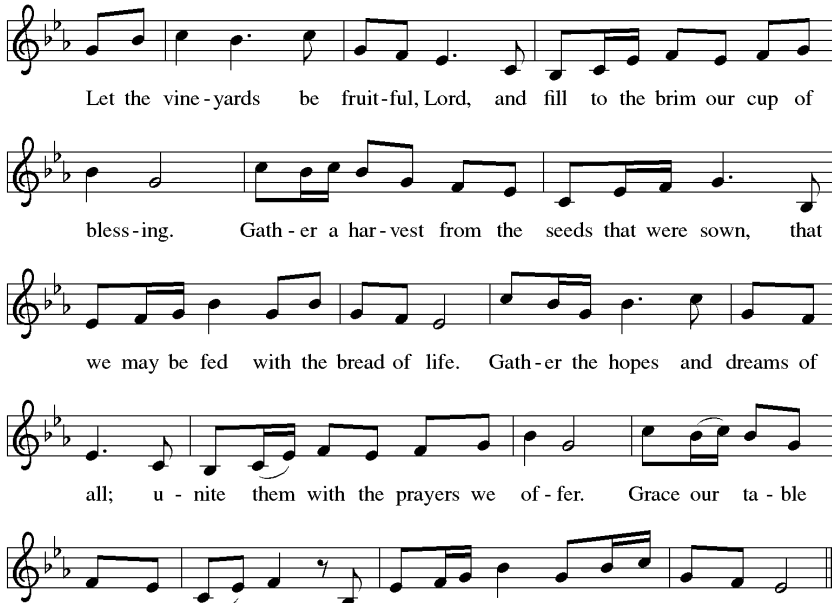
Simply say the words. *"Peace be with You."*

"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 (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

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

“One Bread, One Body” John B. Foley, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 OCP

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Sebastian Temple, Arr. Mark Hayes, 2013 OCP

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. #547 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “God Extends an Invitation” (#486 in our hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Paula and Charlie Hershberger in honor of St. John’s ministries.

THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN is presented by Beth Bodtorf to the Glory of God and in memory of James S. Bodtorf.

THIS WEEK’S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in loving memory of their parents Shirley and Tony Rader and Jean and Gene Tressler given by Pam and Tim Tressler.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Adele Craig in honor of her grandchildren.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and the Barnabas Brothers will proudly celebrate and honor Pastor Hulslander and Pastor Hershberger **today October 11th** in recognition of Pastor & Clergy Appreciation Day. Please plan on attending a **fellowship luncheon today** after service to celebrate Pastor & Clergy Appreciation Day. The Barnabas Brothers will proudly provide Giant chicken, cake & beverages. The congregation is respectfully requested to bring a side dish, dessert or other food item to share at this special celebration fellowship. Our Lord and Savior has blessed St. John's Lutheran Church with the Ministry of Pastor Hulslander and Pastor Hershberger. Please plan on attending the fellowship and sharing your favorite casserole and/or dessert.

MISSION OUTREACH would like to thank the Barnabas Brothers and the church congregation who so graciously donated to the NICU project. It was a wonderful success, and all the items will be delivered in November. Thank you again!

GODLY PLAY is **cancelled** today October 11th due to the luncheon after church. Godly Play will meet on Sunday November 8th.

HAM SANDWICH orders are **due today** and pick up day is Friday, October 16th. Sandwiches are \$4.00ea. Please see Janet Deamer and/or the order form posted on the church office window.

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 BARNABAS BROTHERS will have a scheduled breakfast meeting on **Saturday, October 17th** at 8am in the church fellowship hall. Guest Speakers will be Representatives from the Dream Center a Christian Center in Burnham. Please plan to attend a morning of Christian Fellowship, dynamic speakers, and King's Breakfast.

THE 2026-2027 STEWARDSHIP forms will be placed in the sanctuary and the on the resource table starting on **October 18th, 2026**. 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.

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 on **Sunday, 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.

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

PIECEMAKERS would like to thank the congregation for their donations of sheets and fabric. This year they made **87 quilts** for World Relief, 3 adult quilts and 2 youth quilts for the Homeless Shelter, and 7 baby quilts for the Crossroads Pregnancy Center.

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 Hidlay, 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!

VETERANS DAY SJLC would like to honor our congregational members who are veterans for Veteran's Day **November 18th**. We are looking for pictures, names and years of service. Please give or email carrie@kishvet.com by **October 31st**.

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!

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.

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.

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.**

HAM SANDWICH sales have been moved to the **third Friday** in **October** (16th) and 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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! to St. John's Lutheran Church Congregation: "We would like to thank our church family for your prayers, cards and visits. Your love and support during this difficult time was greatly appreciated."

The Barr Family: Pete, Kris, Nancy and families.

Worship SCHEDULE

October 18 [Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

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

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, Dallas Tanner, Joyce Tanner

Money Counters – Cheryl Bressler, Sandy Noble

Lay Lectors

October 18 – Adele Craig

October 25 – Josie Baughman

Next Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13], 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22*