

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, May 5th, 2024, 9:00 AM ✦ Sixth Sunday of Easter / Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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. Charles Hershberger

Ushers – Dennis Noble (head usher), Sandy Noble, Gloria Stewart

Cantor – Sue Shawver

Lay Lector – Chad Hershberger

Communion Assistants – Tom Beaver, Hillary Worley, Jenna Hackenberger

Crucifer – Hillary Worley

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Anderson Bitner

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Verna Moist, Alice Heimer

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

PRELUDE 9:00 AM “Love Lifted Me” Howard E. Smith, Arr. Melody Bober, 2014 Alfred Music

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter, and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Processional Hymn

ELW pg. #650 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

GREETING

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW page #138 Setting 3

Glory to God

ELW page #139 Setting 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Special Music

“Live My Life for Love” Pepper Choplin, 2010 Alfred Music Pub. Co., Inc.

Chancel Choir

WORD

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

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

Psalm: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the
earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus, the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

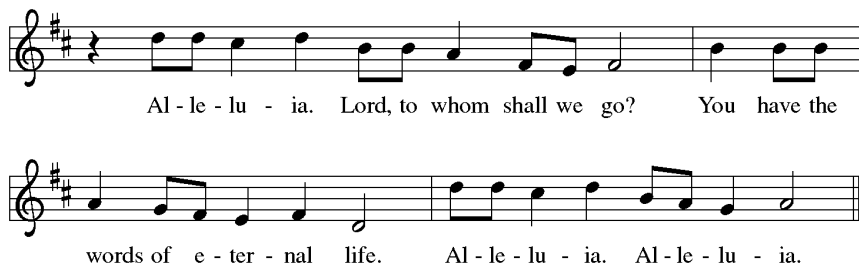
Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

SPEAKER

Chad Hershberger

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to, John the 15th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

After the reading ...

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Charlie

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 into hell.
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,
Patty Wagner, Steve & Vicki Yohn,
Tracy Loucks, Jack Stull, Toby
Sweigart, Dave Treaster, Dave
Borland, 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: "God of Grace"

And the Congregational response is:

"hear 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."

MEAL *Please continue to stand.*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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....

and join their unending hymn (sung):

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our lord Jesus.....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

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.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life.... Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places.... O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (SUNG) Inside back cover of Hymnal.

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

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

INVITATION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

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

“Jesus Loves Me” (Based of Debussy’s “Clair de Lune”) William Bradbury, arr. Fred Bock, 1975 Fred Bock Music Music Co.

“Love Divine, all Loves Excelling” (Inspired by Debussy’s “Petite Suite”) John Zundel, Arr. Faye Lopez 2018 Alfred Lopez

“O Love that Will Not Let Me Go” Albert L. Peace, Arr. Melody Bober, 2014 Alfred Music

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

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW pg. #836 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “O God Beyond All Praising” (ELW #880 in Hymnal)

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Ed Stewart in memory of his parents Chuck and Helen Stewart.

TODAY'S BASKET is presented by Jane Detweiler in memory of the Burlews and the Edminstons.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are presented by Sharon Gibboney in memory of her parents.
THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory of Esther Henry by Scott Price.
THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Hillary Worley and Josh Pennepacker in honor of their daughters Mara and Joleigh.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

PASTOR ALLEN and Joy will be on vacation from April 29th thru May 15th. Pastor Charlie is covering and can be reached at 717-248-3420.

MEET & EAT will be going to The Heritage Family Buffet in Allensville on Tuesday, May 7th at Noon. Everyone is to meet at the restaurant.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is at St. John's Lutheran Church on Friday May 31st, 2024, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. Please see the flyer and the free Red Cross Blood Donor App posted on the office window. Give blood! Save lives!

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day, Crossroads Pregnancy Center holds their "Baby Bottle Boomerang" fundraiser. If you want to participate, just pick up a baby bottle at one of the Church entrances, fill it with your spare change & return the baby bottle to the church by Father's Day, June 16th. Give online at www.cpcfornlife.org. Thank you for your support.

RAINBOW SUMMER Once again, the LUMINA Center will be hosting Rainbow Summer. If your heart strings are tugging for you to assist, there are opportunities to volunteer and donate. You can sponsor a child for \$125 (although any amount is greatly appreciated). Most of all, please pray for the Center, its purpose, its programs, its staff/volunteers, and the individuals/families it serves.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 2nd Quarter Special Offering is going to support the ministry to the Veteran's Meeting. 1st Quarter Special Offering-Central Pa. World Hunger Association Meat Canning Project (Max Hook past member). Lenten Special Offering-Rainbow Summer. Easter Special Offering-St. John's Organ refurbishment fund.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (Start the Party!) Request for Volunteers to help with games (and a snack evening) for VBS at Grace United Methodist Church June 23-27 6-8pm. Interested persons may contact Jeanne Hendricks 412-303-4054. For children wishing to attend VBS, please see posted flyers for registration details.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL (for all ages) is an amazing experience where scriptures and parables "come alive." Godly Play dates are as follows:05/12. All are welcome!

THE LUMINA CENTER is selling its yearly Community Restaurant Discount Cards. 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.

COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

SJLC CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Wednesday May 8th is the last choir practice for Celeste and Praise and Worship Choir.

Sunday May 12th is the last Celeste and Praise and Worship Choir sing for the season.

Wednesday May 15th is the last Handbell Choir practice.

Sunday May 19th is the last time Handbell Choir plays for the season.

Wednesday Sept 4th All choirs will resume rehearsals.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS are proud to announce that the annual Mother & Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday May 11, 2024, at the Church Fellowship Hall with social hour from 5:30pm to 6pm and dinner served at 6pm. We are honored to announce that Chef Katherine Jackson, daughter of church member Ed Aurand has agreed to prepare the meal with assistance from the Barnabas Brothers. We are so appreciative of Katherine who travels in from the Pittsburgh area and offers her culinary skills for this very special occasion. Entertainment following the banquet will be held in the church sanctuary with a musical performance by the band Flipside which consists of Grace and Rhonda performing a great selection of music with accompaniment by audience participation playing a variety of musical instruments. Tickets are available at the church office with the cost of adult tickets- \$8 dollars, children ages 6-12, \$4 dollars and under age 6 free. Tickets must be purchased by **Monday May 6th**, to prepare for the banquet. Please consider attending the Mother & Daughter Banquet for a great night of Christian Fellowship. Please contact Steve Burk, at 250-7410, with any questions or concerns.

THE BARNABAS BROTHERS breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 18th, at 8am in the Church Fellowship Hall. Shelter Services Director Jane Neff is the scheduled speaker and will present a presentation regarding how the shelter supports Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. "God's Work Our Hands". Please plan to attend and enjoy a morning of Christian Fellowship with a King's Breakfast and inspirational message of how shelter services are helping area residents who are facing life's challenges.

THE MISSION & OUTREACH meeting is on Sunday May 19th, 2024, at 10:00am.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL meeting is on Monday May 20th, 2024, at 6:30pm.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD item requests for May/June are shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bars of soap.

HAM SANDWICH SALE is the second Friday of every month. Orders are due the Tuesday before. Please see Mary Barr for more information.

PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP Needs sheets (slightly used ok). Deliver to quilt room.

Worship SCHEDULE

May 12 [Seventh Sunday of Easter] 9:00 am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play
May 19 [Day of Pentecost] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School
May 26 [The Holy Trinity] 9:00am Worship
June 2 [Second Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
June 9 [Third Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship
June 16 [Fourth Sunday after Pentecost] 9:00am Worship

Meetings (Please see above for details)

05/07 Tue. Meet & Eat at The Heritage Family Buffet Allensville at 12-Noon.
05/11 Sat. Mother, Daughter Banquet Dinner at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
05/18 Sat. Barnabas Brothers Breakfast at 8:00am.
05/19 Sun. Mission & Outreach meeting at 10:00am
05/20 Mon. Council meeting at 6:30pm.
05/31 Fri. Red Cross Blood Drive from Noon to 5:00pm.

Chior practice please see above.

Reminders for May

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Anderson Bitner

Altar Guild Volunteers – Anne Spicer, Verna Moist, Alice Heimer

Communion Assistants – Tom Beaver, Hillary Worley, Jenna Hackenberger

Crucifer – TBA

Ushers – Dennis Noble (head usher), Sandy Noble, Gloria Stewart

Money Counters – Judy Spencer, Deb Kling

Chad Hershberger

Chad Hershberger is the son of Charles and Paula Hershberger and a son of St. John's, growing up in the congregation having been baptized and confirmed here. Since 2001, he has served as Executive Director of Camp Mount Luther. In addition to his work for the camp, Chad serves as the Director of Communications for the Upper Susquehanna Synod and as an adjunct instructor in communications at Susquehanna University.

Chad holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Penn State University and a Master of Arts degree in Religion from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Prior to working at camp full-time, Chad was a radio news anchor/reporter for WKOK/WQKX in Sunbury and Director of Public Information for Northumberland County.

His most important title is "dad" to Claire, 14, and Aaron, 11. His wife, Sarah, is the pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Shamokin and interim pastor for the Elysburg Lutheran Parish. The Hershberger Family lives in Mifflinburg with their dog, Cooper.

Next Sunday Readings: *Acts 1:15-17,21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19*