

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
stjohnslewestown@gmail.com

Interim Pastor: Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

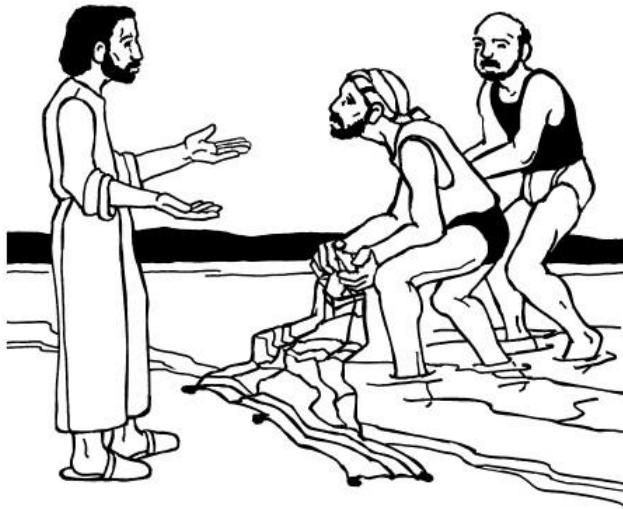
Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

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

<http://www.stjohnslewestown.com>

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

Saturday, January 24th, 2026, Third Sunday after Epiphany /Setting 3



INTRODUCTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

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 – Anderson Bitner

Altar Guild Volunteers – Gloria Stewart, Jenny McCardle, Mariah King

Cantor – Mina Phillips

Communion Assistants – Scott Price, Jim Rosenberry, Melissa Rosenberry

Crucifer – Scott Price

Lay Reader – Sue Shawver

Ushers – Ed Stewart – head, Gloria Stewart, Pam Tressler

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

PRELUDE "Hymn Medley" Solo Handbell Arrangement by Christine D. Andersen, Piano Arrangement

by Daniel Kramlich, 1987 in songs for the Solo Ringer by Agape

Peter Marsh - Handbells

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.

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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

ELW #815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

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

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“Light of the World”

Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, Paul Madbury, 2013 Sony/ATV Timber Pub.
Mina Phillips - Vocal

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**
Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will
sing and make music to the LORD. R

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you

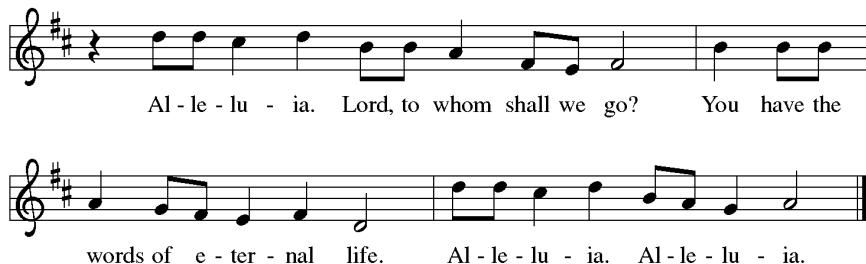
be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 4th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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"

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Steve & Vicki Yohn, Jack Stull, Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Darlene Varner, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, Lou Sonnenberg, and the Call Committee.

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

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

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW pg. #144 Setting 3

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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

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

INVITATION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

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; 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

Jerry Stone – Flute

“Be Still and Know” Steven Curtis Chapman, Arr. Lloyd Larson, 2007 Sparrow Song
“Near to the Heart of God”/“Children of the Heavenly Father” Cleland B. McAfee/Traditional
Swedish Melody, Arr. Brant Adams 2005 Lorenz Pub. Co.
“Thanks Be to God” Christoph Von Gluck, 1964 R.D. Row Music 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

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #674 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Thy Strong Word” (#511 in our hymnal)

Jerry Stone – Flute

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DEDICATIONS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented by Darlene Reish-Shawver in memory of Helen Hostetler and family.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Nikki and Mark Hidlay in honor of their children.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in honor of Gibert Fisher's 70th birthday given by Norma Fisher and family.

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is given by Rhonda and Jeff Gum in memory of Ron Croyle.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY! A parishioner is willing to give \$1000 dollars to the organ fund if the congregation match the amount. It is simple for every dollar the congregation gives the parishioner will match it until the total reaches \$1000. If the challenge is accomplished, we would gain \$2000 for the organ fund. Ty for all that you do. Pastor Allen.

THE ANNUAL congregational meeting will be on **Sunday, February 1st** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share as the Barnabas Brothers will provide Giant Chicken and a celebration cake.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION There will be a council reorganization meeting following the congregational meeting on **February 1st**. Meeting place to be determined.

MEET & EAT All women of the church are cordially invited to the Asian Fusion Restaurant on **Tuesday, February 3rd** at 12:00-Noon. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant.

ST JOHN'S is looking for a part-time Financial Secretary. We are reaching out to the congregation before posting it to the public. Anyone interested, or needing more information, please see Hillary Worley, Ed Stewart or Nikki Hidlay. If there are no interested parties within the congregation, the position will be posted publicly after January 18th.

GODLY PLAY is an amazing experience for all ages where scriptures and parables “come alive” where children learn and experience their own spirituality through wonder and play. Godly Play will meet after services in the Godly Playroom in the Sunday School wing. The

dates are as follows: **Sunday, February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th**. All are welcome!

THE RED CROSS blood drive will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, February 25th** from Noon to 5:00pm. Flyers with information on the blood drive and how to maximize your blood donation have been placed on the SJLC resource table. "Sleeves Up, Hearts Open, All In"

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET There are copies of the purposed budget on the resource table for review prior to the annual meeting.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER Campaign is seeking donations. Your gifts help the response to hunger and poverty in more than 60 counties around the world, including the United States. If interested in donating to the campaign, you can simply mark it on your offering envelope. Don't have an offering envelope? Simply put your donation in a blank envelope labeled World Hunger Campaign.

FIRST QUARTER Special Offerings will go towards the Central Pa. Meat Canning Project.

ORGAN FUND There is now an option through Vanco (on-line giving) for donations to go towards the organ fund.

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

LUMINA CENTER The new **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

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

REMINDER to submit your yearly report for the SJLC annual report and thank those who have submitted theirs. It's greatly appreciated!

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting is on **Thursday, January 29th** at 1:00pm.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD items for **January/February** are tissues, toilet paper, paper towels & tea bags.

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

Worship SCHEDULE

February 1 [Fourth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School.

February 8 [Fifth Sunday after Epiphany] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School/Godly Play.

February 15 [Transfiguration of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School.

February 18 [Ash Wednesday] 7:00pm.

February 22 [First Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Thu. 01/29 Finance Committee meeting at 1:00pm.

Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Sun. 02/8, 03/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Play Sunday School

Reminders for February

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

Altar Guild Volunteers – Shaneen Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray- crucifer, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

Ushers – Tom Beaver – head, Norma Fisher, Hillary Worley

Money Counters – Scott Welham, Debbie Kling

Lay Lectors

February 1 – Josie Baughman

February 8 – Youth

February 15 – Jenna Dudukovich

February 22 – Tom Beaver

Next Sunday Readings: *Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12*

