The Good News

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

November 2026



Mission Statement

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides an inviting environment for spreading God's word through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address the spiritual needs of our congregation and community.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Worship Times

SAT. 5:30PM
SUN. 10:00AM
IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP

Office Hours & Contact

MON-WED-THURS (Lancaster)
TUES (Elma)
10:00AM-3:00PM
716-683-8972
STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM
STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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Pastor's Message

AI has become quite the topic of conversation as of late. It is hard to believe just how much it has spread throughout modern life, and I am sure what we have seen is just the beginning. AI can create videos, essays, and songs. It can mimic voices and faces. It can be used to deceive or have a deceased actor reprise a famed role. Students use it to evade actually doing work, while employers use it to replace workers. There are concerns about how far it has spread and how far it can spread; what it can do and what it will be able to do in the future. On top of all of those things, there is the cost in terms of electricity, water, land and other resources. To say AI raises many concerns and questions is an understatement. One thing I know for sure, however, is that it is here to stay. Once we as humans unlock a useful new tool or technology it sticks around. Like the internet, the telephone, the TV, the radio and the list goes on, AI will become a part of life. So what are we as the Church to do?

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:21

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. Psalm 139 7-10

We are to rely on God who is always present with us. We may not know the form that future challenges take or the obstacles that may need to be overcome, but we do know that God is with us. Jesus said it to the disciples as they were about to face a world where he no longer walked with them as he once did. Paul said it to the early church as they struggled in a world that was hostile to them. The psalmist spoke to the people of Israel who were constantly facing challenges from within as well as foreign oppression. Since Biblical times the church has faced a constantly changing world and was asked to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to it. We, the Church, have persisted and succeeded in every age.

I'm reminded of the Hymn "The Church of Christ in Every Age":

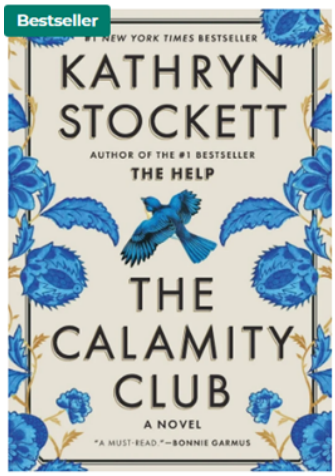
The church of Christ in ev'ry age, beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead. We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

We are no strangers to change. The future will continue to present new and unexpected realities, but through it all we will rely on God to see us through. We will continue to be Spirit-led, and we will continue to spread God's liberating word.

Peace,

Pastor Jamie

Book Club



Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, December 9th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, THE CALAMITY CLUB, by Kathryn Stockett.

Oxford, Mississippi, 1933.

Abandoned by her mother one Christmas Eve, eleven-year-old Meg Lefleur has learned the hard way to rely on no one. Now one of the unadoptable "big girls" at the Lafayette County Orphan Asylum, she fights each day to keep her spirit unbowed.

Birdie Calhoun, unmarried and outspoken, has come to Oxford to ask her socialite sister to help the struggling family she's left behind. But as the Depression tightens its grip, Birdie discovers her sister's seemingly charmed life is a tapestry of lies.

Then, Birdie encounters Charlie, a woman running low on luck with little left to lose. When their fates—and Meg's—converge, Charlie comes up with an audacious plan for them to take control of their lives. But in a place and time where hypocrisy is rife and women's freedom is fragile, even the smallest act of defiance can have dangerous consequences.

THE CALAMITY CLUB will make you laugh, cry, and cheer—an epic testament to underestimated women who know that calamity can be the spark of new beginnings. Read about the complexities of the American South in this thoughtful and hilarious novel following three unforgettable women and the circumstances they refuse to let define them. Then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas.Friends and guests are always welcome!

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-calamity-club-kathryn-stockett/1147098401?ean=9781954118812

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00amBible Study 10:00amIn Person/ Online Service 10:00amSunday School 11:05amChoir Practice	2 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours	3 9:30am- 1:30pmQuilters 3:45pm- 7:00pmYOUTH: Spaghetti Dinner Assist 4:00pm- 7:00pmElection Day Spaghetti Dinner 7:00pmNA Meeting	4 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours	5 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 1:00pmBible Study 6:00pmHandbell Practice	6	7 5:30pmIn Person Service
8 9:00amBible Study 10:00amSunday School 10:00amWorship/Baptisms (Siuda) 11:00am- 12:30pmConfirmation Class 11:05amChoir Practice 11:30amProperty & Grounds	9 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 11:00am- 2:00pmPoppi's Pantry 5:00pm- 7:30pmGuiding Eyes 6:00pmGirl Scouts	10 9:30am- 1:30pmQuilters 7:00pmNA Meeting	11 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 11:30amWomen's Lunch 6:00pmLancaster Garden Club 7:00pmLYMA Mtg.	12 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 1:00pmBible Study 6:00pmHandbell Practice	13	14 12:30pmCongregational Care Meals 5:30pmIn Person Service
15 Good News Articles Due 9:00amBible Study 10:00amIn Person/ Online Service 10:00amSunday School 11:00amCoffee Hour 11:05amChoir Practice	16 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours	17 9:30am- 1:30pmQuilters 7:00pmNA Meeting	18 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 2:30pmBook Club	19 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 1:00pmBible Study 6:00pmHandbell Practice	20 6:30pmB*I*N*G*O Night	21 5:30pmIn Person Service
22 9:00amBible Study 10:00amIn Person/ Online Service 10:00amSunday School 11:00am- 12:30pmConfirmation Class 11:05amChoir Practice	23 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 11:00am- 2:00pmPoppi's Pantry 5:00pm- 7:30pmGuiding Eyes 6:00pmGirl Scouts	24 9:30am- 1:30pmQuilters 7:00pmCouncil Meeting 7:00pmNA Meeting	25 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours	26 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 1:00pmBible Study 6:00pmHandbell Practice	27	28 5:30pmIn Person Service
29 9:00amBible Study 10:00amIn Person/ Online Service 10:00amSunday School 11:05amChoir Practice 1:00pm- 3:00pmYOUTH - Friendsgiving	30 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours	1 9:30am- 1:30pmQuilters 7:00pmNA Meeting	2 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 6:00pm- 9:00pmWomen's Fellowship Christmas	3 10:00am- 3:00pmChurch Office Hours 1:00pmBible Study 5:00pm- 9:00pmGarden Club Christmas Party 6:00pmHandbell Practice	4	5 5:30pmIn Person Service

https://www.stjohnslanc.org/calendar

Upcoming Schedules

Altar Guild

Nancy & John Scarafia
November 1, 2026

Kathy Snyder
November 8, 2026

Amy & John Petrunyak
November 15, 2026

RaeAnn Jakubowski
November 22, 2026

Sharon Walker
Carol Graham Sunday,
November 29, 2026

Deacons

11/1/2026
Kathy Snyder

11/8/2026
Kathy Konstabel

11/15/2026
Kathy Snyder

11/22/2026
RaeAnn Jakubowski

11/29/2026
Kathy Konstabel

Ushers

11/1/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Rick Tomaszewski

11/8/2026
Rich Rice
Linda Costa

11/15/2026
Rick Tomaszewski
Greg Wildridge

11/22/2026
Linda Costa
Kathy Burr

11/29/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Rich Rice

Weekly Groups / Meetings

Bible Study: Sundays @ 9am
Joysingers: Sundays @ 9:30am
Worship: Sundays @ 10am
Confirmation: Scheduled Sundays @ 11am
Choir: Sundays @ 11:05am
Food Pantry: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 11am
Guiding Eyes: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 5pm
Girl Scouts: Alternate Mondays @ 6pm
Quilters: Tuesdays @ 9:30am
NA: Tuesdays @ 7pm
Bible Study: Thursdays @ 1pm
Handbell: Thursdays @ 6:00pm
Worship: Saturdays @ 5:30pm

Announcements

Angel Tree

It's Angel Tree time! Let's assist The Salvation Army in bringing some joy to children in our area during this Christmas season. Tags will be available on trees both upstairs and downstairs, starting November 7th. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You can purchase the gift listed (or something similar) and then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. Additional gifts can be purchased, if desired. Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 6th. There are also envelopes hanging on the trees to donate cash or check (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place your envelope in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, call the church office.



St. John's Community Food Pantry

In anticipation of the upcoming Holiday Season, we are planning to give frozen turkey breasts to residents of the Towers. We thank you for the contributions towards our Thanksgiving dinners. We currently have an ample supply of canned vegetables, stuffing and cranberries. We still need boxes of instant potatoes, canned yams and canned/jar gravy. Thank you!

Ramp Fund Update

IThe St John's Lutheran Young Men association is happy to report that the ramp fund to help offset costs occurred by the Rudz family is presently at $830. We will be matching up to $3000 in donations to the fund. Thanks to all who have given and if not, please consider a donation. You may use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thanks again God Bless! LYMA



Christmas Parties

On the calendar for December, Save the dates for:
Women's Group: Wednesday, December 2 from 6-9pm (Fellowship Hall)
Garden Club: Thursday December 3, from 5-9pm (Fellowship Hall)
LYMA Sponsored: Wednesday, December 9, from 6-10pm (Skoob's)
Youth Party: Sunday, December 13 from 4-7pm





SPAGHETTI DINNER

November 3rd @ 4-7pm

ELECTION DAY



$12

DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT

St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086

'TIS THE SEASON

Salvation Army

Angel Tree



November 7th

thru December 6th



Friendsgiving

November 29th @ 1-3pm

Youth Event

*Bring a Friend

*Bring a side to share

*RSVP by 11/22

Call or Text Kelly

716-868-3023



St John's Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086

Altar Flower Update

Arrangements for the altar are $40 (for 2). You may request specific colors or flowers if desired, however there may be an additional charge if you would like larger arrangements or more expensive varieties of flowers. To dedicate flowers, please continue to use the envelopes provided at the church, Contact the church office by phone 716-683-8972 or by email at stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com. All dedications must be submitted and paid for by the Monday before the dedication date in order to provide time to notify the florist.

Available Altar Flower Dates

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

December 6, 13, 20, 27

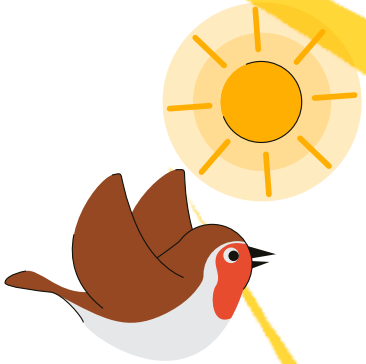
Prayer List

You know our needs, O Lord:
Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave,
Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz,
Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards,
Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart,
Rosie Cline, Marcus Moen, Joey,
Teresa, and Donny



Happy Birthday!

WILLIAM SIERACKI, Nov 1
CHERYL KELLER, Nov 2
Gianna CUTTITTA, Nov 3
RACHEL POSS, Nov 5
Maverick RINGER, Nov 5
DAWN GACZEWSKI, Nov 6
NICHOLAS BECKMAN, Nov 6
JULIA RUDZ, Nov 6
EDMUND SABATINO, Nov 8
KAITLYN PETRUNYAK, Nov 10
NICHOLAS PETRUNYAK, Nov 10
THOMAS McGUIRE, Nov 10
KARAN DURKIN, Nov 12
JOSEPH FROST, Nov 12
ANNA QUILLEN, Nov 12
Lettie BURRY, Nov 13
PAULINE BAUER, Nov 15





Paige RINGER, Nov 17
MICHAEL GILLEN, Nov 18
SUZANNE MILLER, Nov 19
ANITA SCHIAVONE, Nov 19
JILL REIF, Nov 20
Samuel FRIEND, Nov 21
SUSAN VALOIS, Nov 23
LINDA GREEN, Nov 24
KEVIN KRUGER, Nov 24
JILL GRAFF, Nov 25
ROY STUTZMAN, Nov 25
TIMOTHY REIF, Nov 26
JOHN CUTTITTA, Nov 27
GRACE VOSS, Nov 27
RONALD KJELDGAARD, Nov 28
RUSSELL FREUND, Nov 30
JEFFREY MILLER, Nov 30

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
Office 683-8972 (Mon. WedThurs. 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com
Rev. Jamie Retallack, Pastor 716-848-9683
Rev. John Swanson, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John Scarafia, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Vicky Chang, Director of Music
Cindy Jo Speth, Housekeeping
Michael Walker, Sexton
Donna McGrew, Financial Secretary
Melissa Dwyer, Church Secretary

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)
Pauline Bauer
Tom Frost
Sam Gierlinger
RaeAnn Jakubowski
Marjorie Kruger
Jeff Miller
Rich Rice
Paul Rudz
Kelly Sieracki

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Grateful, Thankful and Blessed

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