

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

OCTOBER 2025



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

I really like a clean office. Sure I love having shelves full of knickknacks, and I like pictures on the wall, but I like the space to be clean and tidy. Yet it seems to become cluttered often enough. Papers pile up, boxes from projects I'm working on accumulate, and who knows what else seems to fill the room. It never happens all at once; it's slow and steady. A few papers become a pile. One box becomes two, and before I know it, I've got enough things accumulated to look like I'm having a garage sale. It's never all at once, it's always gradual, but to remedy the situation takes one concerted effort- deciding it's time to clean out my office and following through. I don't think I am alone in this. I bet many of you have a space in your home where things have accumulated over time and the space has slowly become less of a functional space. Attics, basements and crawl spaces are notorious for this treatment. But it's not just our physical spaces that become occupied in this manner.

Our mind's can get filled up too. The opinions of others, the worries of this world, voices in the media or on the news. So many things fill our minds. All of this can distract us from who God is calling us to be, making it harder to hear the "still small voice of God". Just as we need to pause and clean out our physical spaces, we need to pause and examine the things that take up our mental energy, the things that cloud our perceptions, the things that distract from God.

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies. Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1: 20-25)

In Jude we are being encouraged to focus on our faith, to let our faith in God define our lives, and not let those other voices and influences define who we understand God to be. Jude extols us to encourage others in the faith as well, to divert them away from mindsets that pull them away from God. In a world where so many seek to divide, Jude calls us to gather people together to help them see Christ, even if we disagree with their actions or stances on issues we care about.

I urge you to take some time in the days and weeks ahead to de-clutter your minds, to make space for God, to listen to God. I invite you as Jude did, to build yourself up on your most holy faith.

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, October 22nd at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **HESTER**, by Laurie Lico Albanese.

Isobel Gamble is a young seamstress carrying generations of secrets when she sets sail from Scotland in the early 1800s with her husband, Edward. An apothecary who has fallen under the spell of opium, his pile of debts have forced them to flee Edinburgh for a fresh start in the New World. But only days after they've arrived in Salem, Edward abruptly joins a departing ship as a medic--leaving Isobel penniless and alone in a strange country, forced to make her way by any means possible.

When she meets a young Nathaniel Hawthorne, the two are instantly drawn to each other: he is a man haunted by his ancestors, who sent innocent women to the gallows--while she is an unusually gifted needleworker, troubled by her own strange talents. As the weeks pass and Edward's safe return grows increasingly unlikely, Nathaniel and Isobel grow closer and closer. Together, they are a muse and a dark storyteller; the enchanter and the enchanted. But which is which?

In this sensuous and hypnotizing tale, a young immigrant woman grapples with our country's complicated past, and learns that America's ideas of freedom and liberty often fall short of their promise. Interwoven with Isobel and Nathaniel's story is a vivid interrogation of who gets to be a "real" American in the first half of the 19th century, a depiction of the early days of the Underground Railroad in New England, and the history of unusual women being accused of witchcraft.

Read this imagined origin story to **THE SCARLET LETTER**; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/hester-laurie-lico-albanese/1140777742?ean=9781250825162>

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	29 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen	30 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm Endowment Committee	2 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	3	4 12:00pm - 3:00pm Congregational Care Meals 5:30pm In Person Service
5 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/Baptism (Kloc) 11:15am Confirmation Class 6:00pm - 8:00pm YOUTH - Care Packages	6 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	7 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	8 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 7:00pm Garden Club 7:30pm LYMA Mtg.	9 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	10	11 5:30pm In Person Service
12 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Property & Grounds	13 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	14 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	15 Good News Articles Due 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	16 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	17	18 5:30pm In Person Service
19 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/Olivieri Baptism 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:15am Confirmation Class 1:00pm March on Hunger - Town Line Lutheran 3:00pm - 4:00pm Trunk or Treat Set-Up 4:00pm - 6:00pm Trunk or Treat 6:00pm - 8:00pm YOUTH - Clean-Up & Party	20 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	21 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	22 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	23 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	24	25 5:30pm In Person Service
26 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Chowderfest 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/Confirmations	27 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	28 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	29 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	30 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	31 Reformation Day	1 All Saints Day 5:30pm In Person Service

<https://www.stjohnslanc.org/calendar>

UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Walker
Carol Graham
October 5, 2025

Kelly Sieracki
Corinne Rudz
October 12, 2025

Nancy & John Scarafia
October 19, 2025

Kathy Snyder
October 26, 2025

USHERS

10/5/2025
Rich Rice
Janet Sincebaugh

10/12/2025
Linda Costa
Kathy Burr

10/19/2025
Greg Wildridge
Rick Tomaszewski

10/26/2025
Rich Rice
Janet Sincebaugh

DEACONS

10/5/2025
Paul Rudz

10/12/2025
RaeAnn Jakubowski

10/19/2025
Kathy Snyder

10/26/2025
Paul Rudz

WEEKLY GROUPS / MEETINGS

Bible Study: Sundays @ 9am
Joysingers: Sundays @ 9:30am
Worship: Sundays @ 10am
Confirmation: Alternate Sundays @ 11:15am
Food Pantry: Mondays @ 11am
Guiding Eyes: Mondays @ 4:00pm
Girl Scouts: Alternate Mondays @ 6pm
Chordsmen: Mondays @ 7:30pm
Quilters: Tuesdays @ 9:30am
NA: Tuesdays @ 7pm
Bible Study: Thursdays @ 1pm
Handbell: Thursdays @ 6:30pm
Choir: Thursdays @ 7:30pm
Worship: Saturdays @ 5:30pm



EVENTS / MEETINGS

Endowment Committee: 10/1 @ 7pm
Food Pantry: 10/2 @ 11am
Thurs Bible Study Resumes: 10/2 @ 1pm
Congregational Care Meals: 10/4 @ 12pm
Confirmation: 10/5 & 10/19 @ 11:15am
YOUTH - Care Pkgs: 10/5 @ 6pm
Women's Lunch: 10/8 @ 11:30am
Garden Club: 10/8 @ 7pm
LYMA Meeting: 10/10 @ 7:30pm
Property & Grounds: 10/14 @ 11:30am
Coffee Hour: 10/19 @ 11am
Trunk-or-Treat: 10/19 @ 4pm
YOUTH - Party: 10/19 @ 6pm
Book Club: 10/24 @ 2:30pm
Chowderfest: 10/26 @ 9am
Confirmations: 10/26 @ 10am
Council Meeting: 10/28 @ 7pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDIES



Sunday Mornings @ 9am we meet in the church parlor (Memorial Lounge) at the back stairway for Bible study. This fall season we will be working through the book of Genesis. It will give us a chance to talk about creation and the way God reached out to form a relationship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and how the twelve tribes of Israel came into being. Join us each week **at 9am in the Memorial Lounge.**

Thursday afternoons at 1 pm we meet for an hour of Bible study downstairs in the Chapel. This fall we will be reading another Old Testament book, continuing our exploration of how Israel came to be and how it fits into our understanding of who Jesus was as our savior. The book of Judges tells us these stories, and that is where we start this fall as we explore Israel adjusting to their new life in Canaan. We **begin on Thursday, October 2nd at 1 pm in the Chapel.**

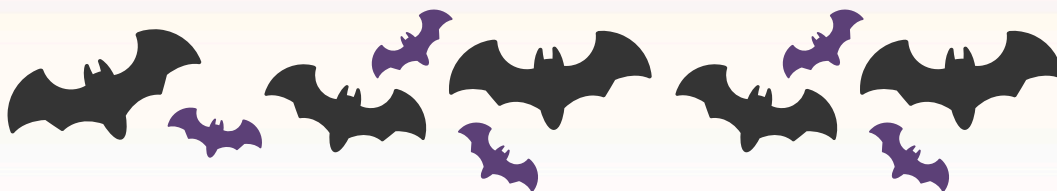


ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

We successfully opened our newly expanded Food Pantry on Monday, September 29! Going forward, we will be serving residents of the Lancaster Towers on Mondays from 11-2. We are seeking volunteers to assist during this time. Kindly consider donating food and/or time to help with this new venture. There are collection baskets around the church, and there is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. For any questions, please contact Janet Sincebaugh @ (716) 651-4685. Thank you!

SHARING CLOSET

If you are hosting an event in our Fellowship Hall, please feel free to check our **sharing closet** for supplies (formerly known as the room across from the kitchen, the sacred closet, or that little room at the end of the back hall)! We have plates, bowls, plastic wear, flowers for centerpieces, cups, serving dishes and so much more! If you need it, and we have it, feel free to use it! If you do need to bring supplies, feel free to leave the leftovers behind to pass on to the next person.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER 19TH FROM 4-6PM

Led By St. John's Youth

Decorate Your Car 3-4pm

Hand Out Treats 4-6pm

Enjoy Treats and Games

All Are Welcome!



St. John's Lutheran in Lancaster * 55 Pleasant Ave * Kelly 716-868-3023

LYMA Chowder Fest

October 26th
9:00am
'til Sold Out

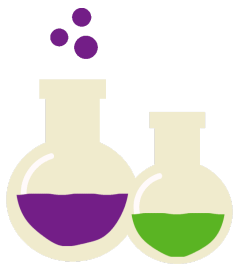
St. John's Lancaster
55 Pleasant Ave
716-683-8972



SPAGHETTI DINNER
November 4th @ 4-7pm



Dine in or Take-out - St. John's Lancaster
55 Pleasant Avenue - (716) 683-8972



ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE



Arrangements for the altar are \$30 (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

October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:
Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer,
Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Arden
Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly
R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Angie, Brian Z,
Charris Kiener, Wende Reiner, Tammy
Gozdziak, Doug, Tom Lafferty, and the
family & friends of Bruce Jacobs.





ROXANN ESFORD, Oct 2
CHERYL HELWIG, Oct 3
JOSHUA RUFFNER, Oct 3
TAMMY QUILLEN, Oct 4
MATILDA MADISON, Oct 4
JESSICA NANTKA, Oct 5
MARJORIE KRUGER, Oct 5
JANET SINCEBAUGH, Oct 7
SCOTT BALCERZAK, Oct 7
PATRICK MITOLA, Oct 7
KAYLA SAULTER, Oct 7
CINDY CRAWFORD, Oct 9
BRENNA BUCCIERI, Oct 9
KARA REFERMAT, Oct 9
MIA MAKI, Oct 10
RUSSELL STRANC, Oct 12
GREGORY BUNN, Oct 12
OWEN PORTO, Oct 12
CHRISTINE MAKI, Oct 13
AARON WAWROWSKI, Oct 14
JANET POWERS, Oct 14
CONNOR KRAWCZYK, Oct 14
SUZANNE MILLER, Oct 15
HARRY BOETTCHER, Oct 16
DANA HINEMAN, Oct 16
PHILIP KLOC, Oct 16

SHARON KELLER, Oct 17
MARTIN PETERS, Oct 17
BRENDEN BURRY, Oct 18
STEVEN KERWIN, Oct 20
SHARADE ALDINGER, Oct 20
ROBBIE HENDERSHOT, Oct 21
DONNA TERRY, Oct 21
LYNN HOFFMAN, Oct 21
SUSAN THAESLER, Oct 23
FRANK MADDOCK, Oct 23
ONNOLEE ORBAN-PAULSEN, Oct 24
DANIELLA STOWBUNENKO, Oct 24
DIANA SIERACKI, Oct 24
SHANNA NOWAK, Oct 24
JACOB KLINGER, Oct 25
JENNIFER JACOBS, Oct 26
DUSTYN MAKI, Oct 26
ROBIN MITOLA, Oct 26
SHARON WALKER, Oct 26
CHRISTIAN SIERACKI, Oct 27
CHRISTOPHER KRUEGER, Oct 27
ALEX KIENER, Oct 29
COLE FRIEND, Oct 29
CYNTHIA SPETH, Oct 30
CAROL BALCERZAK, Oct 30
JOHN PETRUNYAK, Oct 30
PEGGY SUE LAYER, Oct 31



411

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 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

Sam Gierlinger

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Jamie Kloc

Marjorie Kruger

Jeff Miller

Rich Rice

Paul Rudz

Kelly Sieracki



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
55 PLEASANT AVE
LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Follow us on Facebook!
@stjohnslancaster



*Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious
right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

