

Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

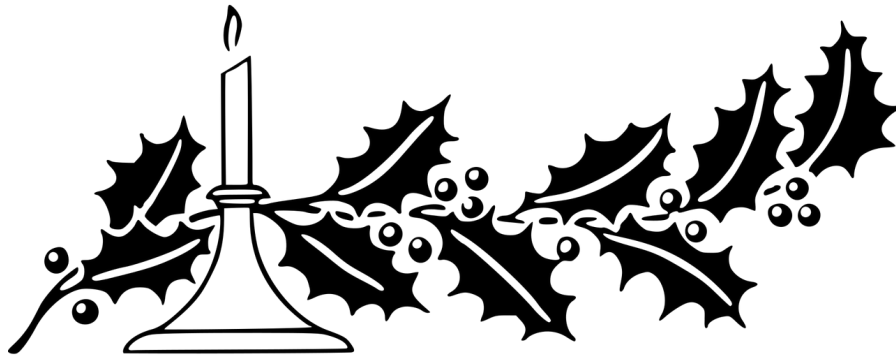


Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 30, 2025

The Prelude
The Greetings



The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only
you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release
our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and
weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our
neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your
advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have
promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own
righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to
welcome the Savior. **Amen.**



Opening Hymn

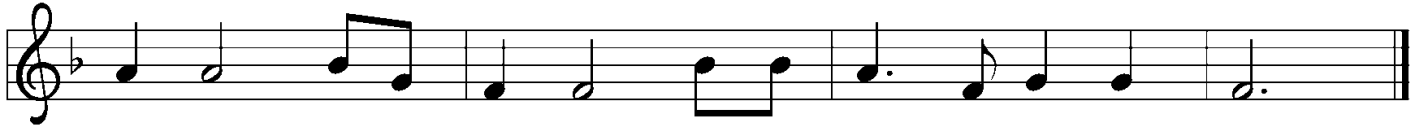
WOV 627

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

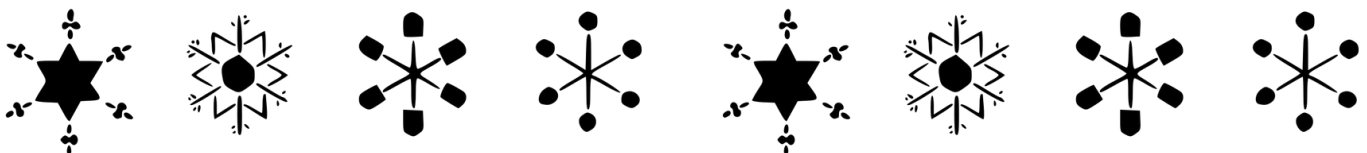


Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual



The Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading
Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122
(Read Responsively)

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

The Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



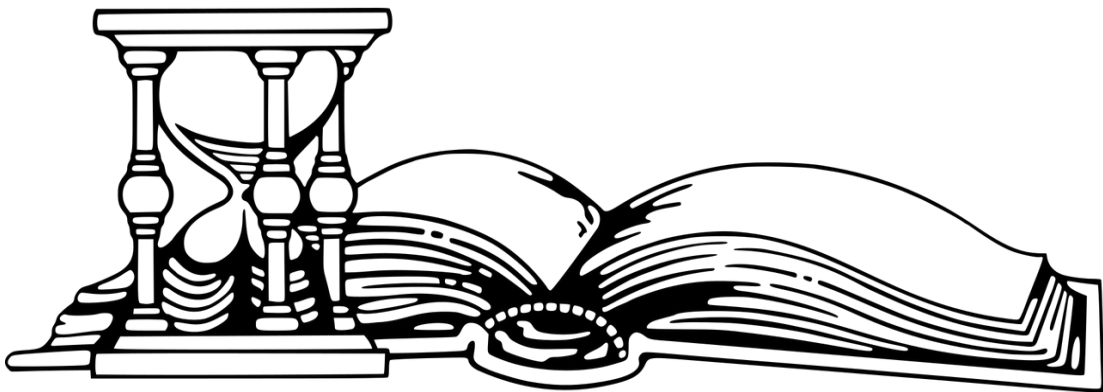
The Alleluia



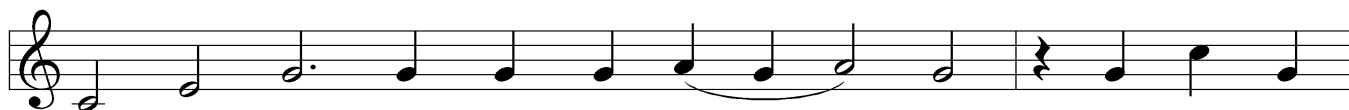
The Gospel Reading
Matthew 24:36-44
Glory to you, O God.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

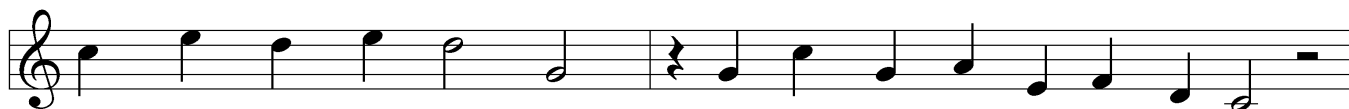
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
 an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



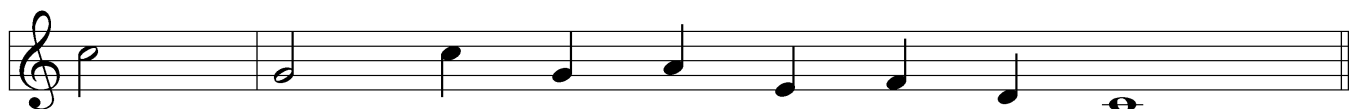
thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we
 what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.
 view where you have bid us dine with you.
 sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Prayers of Intercession

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (especially 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, Bob Valois, Connie, and Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, Michael Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul Rudz, Jon Kuwik, Kristle Dennis, and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

The Prayers of the Church

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The Offering

The Offering Music

The Offertory Hymn



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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The Offertory Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

The 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. 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:



The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks He 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, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Invitation

The Lamb of God



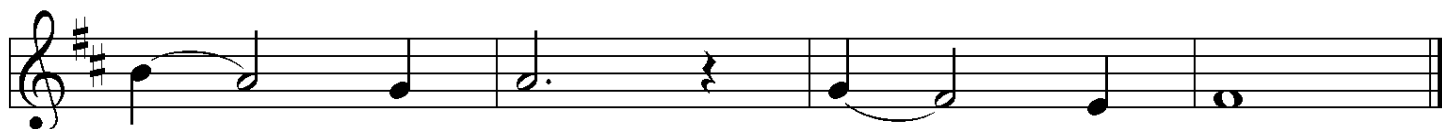
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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, grant us peace.

Communion Music
LBW 212, WOV 709

The Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

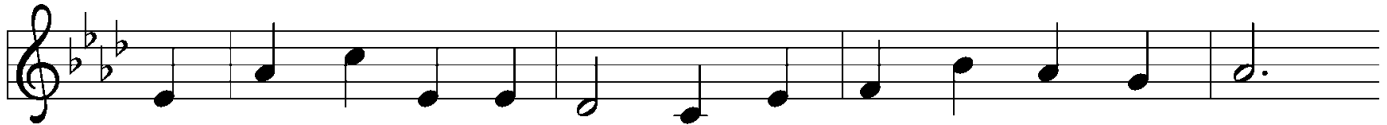
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory;
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending Prayer

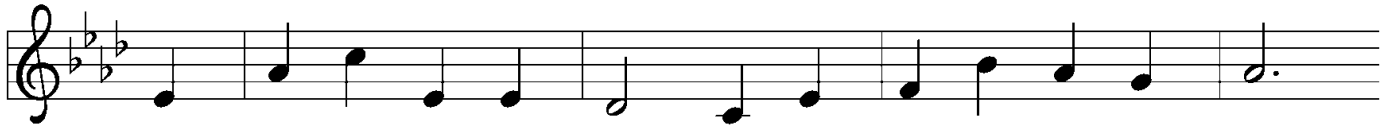
God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune



The Sending
 Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

Office Hours:

Melissa will have office hours here in Lancaster on Mon, Wed, and Thurs, from 10am to 3pm.

Quarterly Statements are available upon request.

If you would like quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

OCTOBER 2025

Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income
\$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday

43 Sundays thru OCTOBER '25 \$111,112.00

actual thru OCTOBER 2025 \$94,775.75

difference -\$16,336.25

Offering
11/23/2025
\$ 3552.00

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to **St. John's donation page** where you can make a one-time or recurring **offering!** Thank you for giving!



Altar Guild: John & Nancy Scarafia
Deacon: Kathy Snyder
Ushers: Linda Costa & Janet Sincebaugh

Available Altar Flower Dates:
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

We lift up: 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, Bob Valois, Connie, and Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, Michael Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul Rudz, Jon Kuwik, and Kristle Dennis.

The **Food Pantry** 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 time to help with this new venture. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. For any questions, please contact Janet Sincebaugh @ (716) 651-4685. Thank you!

The Food Pantry has received donations for Christmas hams, but would like to also provide the sides for holiday dinners. If you are able, we are asking for canned green beans, canned carrots, and canned sliced potatoes. Thank you for your generosity.

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)! 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.

It's **Angel Tree** time! Tags are available on trees upstairs and downstairs. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You may purchase the gift listed (or something similar), then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. **Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 7th.** There are also envelopes 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 or Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.

St. John's Women's Fellowship & Gift Exchange will be **Wednesday 12/03/2025 @ 6 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lancaster. All women are welcome. We will have a potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by the crazy gift exchange.

If you can, please bring a dish to pass for dinner. It can be a main dish, side dish or dessert. It is appreciated but not required; we want you to join us. Coffee and punch will be provided.

We ask you bring a \$10 wrapped/bagged gift for the exchange, but if you just want to join for dinner and fellowship and be an observer for the gift exchange; you are welcome to do so.

Sign-up sheets are available at both churches. The deadline to sign up is 11/30/2025. Questions? Please contact Kathy Snyder @ 716-583-1061.

Christmas Flowers: We are accepting donations for Christmas Flowers for the altars in the Sanctuary and the Chapel. You may use the flower envelope in with your offering envelopes, or you may write "Christmas Flowers" on any envelope, and put it in the offering basket, or turn it in to the office. If you have a dedication to go with your donation, please be sure to indicate whether it is in "honor" or "memory" of the person/s listed. Dedications will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin/s. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB: Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Tuesday (note change in the day of the week), **December 2nd at 2:30 PM** to discuss the novel, **THE LOST GIRLS OF WILLOWBROOK**, by Ellen Marie Wiseman.

The **Choir is looking for singers** to sing for Christmas. Practice is on Thursdays @ 7:30pm. Please join us!

Friendsgiving Youth Event: November 30th @ 1-3pm

Bring a friend. Bring a side to share.

RSVP by 11/28, call or text Kelly @ 716-868-3023

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, 2026, following the 10am worship service. This year there are 3 incumbent seats, and 1 open seat for Council. If you are interested in serving, you **MUST** contact Pastor or Janet Sincebaugh. We look forward to your participation!

Melissa plans to be on vacation the weeks of Christmas and the New Year. The Church Office will be closed. Bulletins for the holidays and the two Sundays after Christmas will be printed ahead of time. If there are any announcements you need in the holiday or post-holiday bulletins, please get them to the office as soon as possible (email is best). The most current prayer list/s will be included at the time of printing. We will put together a final announcement/prayer page on the 18th of December to supplement the already printed bulletins. If you have any announcements or prayers after Dec. 18th, please let Pastor know so he can add them to be announced verbally. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Melissa by phone or email.

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Advent		
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
Friendsgiving	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 1, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Guiding Eyes	4:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Women's Fellowship Christmas	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 4, 2025

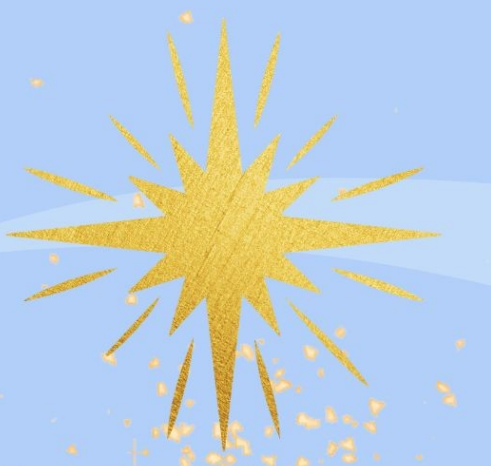
Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	Balcony
Choir Practice	7:30pm	Choir Room

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Kathy Snyder - Baking	9:00am - 3:00pm	Kitchen
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	



Holiday Schedule

BLUE CHRISTMAS @ Lancaster

December 20th @ 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT @ Lancaster

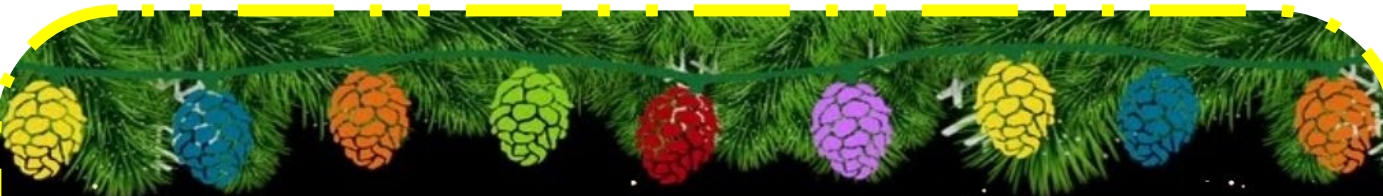
December 21st @ 10am

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24th @ 5pm (Elma)

December 24th @ 7pm (Lancaster)

December 24th @ 10:30pm (Lancaster)



Women's Christmas Fellowship

Wednesday December 3rd @ 5-9pm

★ Fellowship: All Are Welcome! ★
Pot Luck: Bring a Dish to Share

Gift Exchange: Bring a Wrapped \$10 Gift

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



LYMA CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH

6PM COCKTAILS * 7PM DINNER

@ Skoob's Village Grille

50 Central Ave, Lancaster

\$30 PER PERSON - ALL ARE WELCOME!

CONTACT GARY RUDZ 716-829-9618





‘TIS THE
SEASON

Salvation Army
Angel Tree

November 8th- December 7th

Take tag from tree

Replace with star

Purchase gift

Place unwrapped in gift bag

Tag securely attached

OR

Take envelope from tree
for monetary donation

Cash or check

to *Salvation Army*

Place in offering plate

Or turn in to Office



?’s call Carol 716-861-1619

Deadline December 7th

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.
Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!*

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
Office 683-8972 (Mon-Wed-Thurs 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer	Jeff Miller
Sam Gierlinger	Rich Rice
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Paul Rudz
Jamie Kloc	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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