

# THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

November 2023



## 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.

The Rev. Jamie Retallack  
jamesretallack@gmail.com

716-848-9683

## WORSHIP TIMES

**SAT. 5:30PM**

**SUN. 10:00AM**

**IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP**

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**

**10:00AM-3:00PM**

**716-683-8972**

**STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM**

**STJOHNSLANC.ORG**

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# Pastor's Message



Until recently, I've been a glasses-wearer most of my life. I tried contacts briefly once, but I really disliked them, so I went right back to glasses. My vision was pretty bad, so without those glasses I was very limited. I couldn't see anything with clarity. Back in February I had Lasic done, and now for the first time I can recall, I can see clearly without any glasses. But having been reliant on glasses for so long, it's hard for my brain to adjust to this new reality where it doesn't have to constantly keep track of where my glasses are. I try to adjust my non-existent glasses when I have an itch on my nose; I worry about them getting raindrops on them; and I reach for them when I wake up. Before I could be separated from my ability to see and it's taking some getting used to that I can't get separated from my clear sight any more. I've been thinking about this lately as I've been studying Romans.

To explain why my glasses story reminds me of Romans, I'll have to explain Paul's letter to the Romans a bit. Paul writes extensively about the Love of God in Christ Jesus, that it is that love that redeems us. Paul also tells us that we can't earn that love through our works or through the Law. So we are given this love by grace and we can't earn it. The question then becomes: can we lose it? What if I follow the wrong path, listen to the wrong teacher, jump to the wrong conclusion? In short, what if I sin? Paul answers that in Romans 8:37-39:

*No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Paul is pretty clear, nothing in all of creation can separate us from God's love. Since that includes everything that exists, that means that nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Which brings me back to my glasses. In my old way of seeing, I had to keep my glasses on, protect them, care for them and so on. In my new way of seeing, nothing can separate me from my ability to see. It is a worry that I can leave in the past. It does not apply any more, and yet the old reflexes are still there. I still reach for something that isn't there any more. Those habits can be hard to shake. Those changes are difficult for us as people to adapt to.

The idea that we have to earn God's love, and consequently can lose it, is apparently a deeply rooted idea. Paul said that's not how God's love works, Luther reiterated it, and yet we still can fall into that trap. We fear our actions will estrange us from God, that if we falter God will give up on us, retract that love. This is an idea we can leave behind. We can trust Paul's words. Nothing will separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. The fears and worries you may have can be left behind. Open your eyes and see anew: God loves you; God will always love you.

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie





## Book Club



Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 PM to discuss Barbara Kingsolver's novel, DEMON COPPERHEAD.



Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, DEMON COPPERHEAD is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Related in his own unsparing voice,

Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Read this stunner of a novel which brings the themes of Charles Dickens' DAVID COPPERFIELD to the forgotten parts of rural America. Sharp and captivating, it's no surprise this won the 2023 Women's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Equal parts hilarious and heartbreaking, this is the story of an irrepressible boy that nobody wants, but readers will love. Then, come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/demon-copperhead-barbara-kingsolver/1140860121?ean=9780063251922>



# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b> <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 9:30am LYMA Chowderfest 10:00am In Person/ Online Service - 1st Communion 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship & Music Committee Mtg	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 6:00pm Wheelchair Football 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>31</b> <b>Reformation Day</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>2</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>4</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>5</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	<b>6</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>7</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours <b>4:00pm - 7:00pm Spaghetti Dinner</b> 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm Lancaster Garden Club 7:30pm LYMA Mtg.	<b>9</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm - 8:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>Angel Tree Begins</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>12</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Property & Grounds	<b>13</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>14</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>Good News Articles Due</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>16</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>19</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	<b>20</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>21</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>25</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>26</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School <b>11:00am Hanging of the Greens</b> 11:00am Worship & Music Committee Mtg 4:00pm - 7:00pm Youth - Friendship	<b>27</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>28</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours <b>7:00pm Council Meeting</b> 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>29</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>1</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>2</b> 5:30pm In Person Service

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





# Upcoming Schedules

## ALTAR GUILD

11/05/2023  
Sharon Walker  
Carol Graham

11/12/2023  
Kelly Sieracki

11/19/2023  
Cheryl Helwig  
Kathy Snyder

11/26/2023  
Amy Petrunyak  
John Petrunyak

## DEACONS

11/5/2023  
RaeAnn Jakubowski

11/12/2023  
Paul Rudz

11/19/2023  
Kathy Konstabel

11/26/2023  
Kathy Snyder

## USHERS

11/5/2023  
Linda Costa  
Kathy Burr

11/12/2023  
Greg Wildridge  
TBD

11/19/2023  
Bev Hess  
Linda Costa

11/26/2023  
Rich Rice  
Paul Rudz

# Upcoming Youth Activities

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday November 7th  
3-4pm Start  
4-7pm Dinner Service

## FRIENDSGIVING

Sunday November 26th  
4-7pm  
Bring a Dish to Pass





# Upcoming Activities



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Council has set the date of Sunday 11/26/2023 after the 10:00 am service to decorate the church for Christmas. We would ask you to spread the word as many hands make light work, even if someone can only stay for a short time. Your time would be appreciated.



## FELLOWSHIP & GIFT EXCHANGE



St. John's Women Fellowship & Christmas Gift Exchange will be held on Wednesday 12/06/2023 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join us for some fellowship, fun and Christmas cheer.

We ask you bring a \$10 wrapped/bagged gift for the exchange, which involves lots of laughs as ladies either select an unopened gift or choose to "steal" one already open.

Punch will be provided and if anyone would like to bring a small plate of cookies or treats to go with that, it would be appreciated BUT not required. We want you to come with your gift.

Sign-up sheet will be available at different places throughout the church; please indicate you will be coming & add if you will be bringing cookies/treat. This way we can have the fellowship hall set up. Deadline to sign up is Sunday 12/03/2023; but if you forget, please come anyway, we will make it work.

Any questions please contact Kathy Snyder @ 716-583-1061



## SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE



We are once again participating in The Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Let's bring some joy to children in our area during this Christmas season! Tags will be available starting November 11th. 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. 10th. 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 Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.



# 'TIS THE SEASON

## Salvation Army *Angel Tree*

**November 11th- December 10th**

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 10th**





# 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](mailto: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 5, 12, 19, 26  
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31



## Prayer List

We lift up:

Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood,  
Edna Mann, George Stubblebein,  
Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett,  
Roger Stapleton Jr, Patricia  
Kostecky, Tom & Ruth Morse,  
Darrell, Bob, Baby Henry, Damon  
Sides, and Jack McTigue.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DANIELLE DUDKOWSKI, 11-01  
WILLIAM SIERACKI, 11-01  
KARIS\* DOMOGALA, 11-02  
CHERYL KELLER, 11-02  
CYNTHIA REPEC, 11-02  
GIANNA CUTTITTA, 11-03  
MATTHEW JR. RUSSO, 11-04  
KIMBERLY SUCHER, 11-04  
TABITHA WECHTER, 11-04  
RACHEL POSS, 11-05  
MAVERICK RINGER, 11-05  
DANIEL DELLASALA, 11-06  
REBECCA LANDAHL, 11-06  
JULIA RUDZ, 11-06  
DAWN GACZEWSKI, 11-06  
NICHOLAS BECKMAN, 11-06  
EVERLY SUAREZ, 11-08  
EDMUND SABATINO, 11-08  
NICHOLAS PETRUNYAK, 11-10  
THOMAS MCGUIRE, 11-10  
KAITLYN PETRUNYAK, 11-10  
JAMIE CLARK, 11-11  
KARAN DURKIN, 11-12  
JOSEPH FROST, 11-12  
ANNA QUILLEN, 11-12  
MADISON ROGACKI, 11-13  
LETTIE BURRY, 11-13  
EMILY GRUCELLA, 11-14

CAROLE BROCK, 11-14  
PAULINE BAUER, 11-15  
MICHAEL GILLEN, 11-18  
SUZANNE MILLER, 11-19  
ANITA SCHIAVONE, 11-19  
DYLAN CZARNIAK, 11-20  
JILL REIF, 11-20  
ERICH BOERSCH, 11-20  
KAREN DEUTSCHLANDER, 11-21  
SAMUEL FRIEND, 11-21  
VANESSA ANDRZEJEWSKI, 11-23  
SUSAN VALOIS, 11-23  
LINDA GREEN, 11-24  
KEVIN KRUGER, 11-24  
RANDOLPH KREBS, 11-24  
MATTHEW DONHAUSER, 11-25  
JILL GRAFF, 11-25  
ROY STUTZMAN, 11-25  
TIMOTHY REIF, 11-26  
JOHN CUTTITTA, 11-27  
GRACE VOSS, 11-27  
RONALD KJELDGAARD, 11-28  
OLIVIA VANNORTWICK, 11-28  
TYLER LANDAHL, 11-29  
RUSSELL FREUND, 11-30  
JEFFREY MILLER, 11-30  
JENNA PECKY, 11-30





# Holiday Schedule

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

**November 26th @ 11am**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**December 17th @ 10am**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS/LONGEST NIGHT**

**December 21st @ 7pm**

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

**December 23rd @ 5:30pm**

**December 24th @ 5pm (Elma)**

**December 24th @ 7pm**

**December 24th @ 10:30pm**



The page is framed by a decorative border of autumn-themed illustrations. At the top and bottom, there are large, vibrant yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers. Interspersed among the sunflowers are various types of leaves in shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting a fall setting. The background is a light, neutral color, making the colorful floral elements stand out.

# **St. John's 411**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086  
Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)  
[www.stjohnslanc.org](http://www.stjohnslanc.org)  
[stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto: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)**

**Linda Dean**

**Sam Gierlinger**

**RaeAnn Jakubowski**

**Jamie Kloc**

**Jeff Miller**

**Samuel Miller**

**David Nester**

**Rich Rice**

**Kelly Sieracki**



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