

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

MARCH 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

MONDAY-THURSDAY

10:00AM-3:00PM

716-683-8972

STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM

STJOHNSLANC.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

BOOK CLUB

CALENDAR

SCHEDULES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS/PRAYER LIST

EVENT FLYERS

BIRTHDAYS

ST. JOHN'S 411



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



This year I'll be celebrating my 15th ordination anniversary. It has given me pause for reflection. Reflecting on the people, places and ministry that have taken place throughout those 15 years. In particular it has caused me to think about how I have grown and changed in that time. I'm sure most if not all of us if we looked back 15 years would be able to see all the changes that have transpired within us over that time. We've learned new things, tackled new challenges, overcome obstacles, perhaps had to walk away from some as well. We have likely all had some changes in our lives that have impacted us as well, new jobs, retirement, children being born, children moving out, new relationships, old relationships ending, and so much more. In other words though 15 years is a relatively short time (Our pastors emeriti have much more experience than I do) so very much can change. It reminds me that we are to be regularly reflecting on if we are following God's call in our lives.

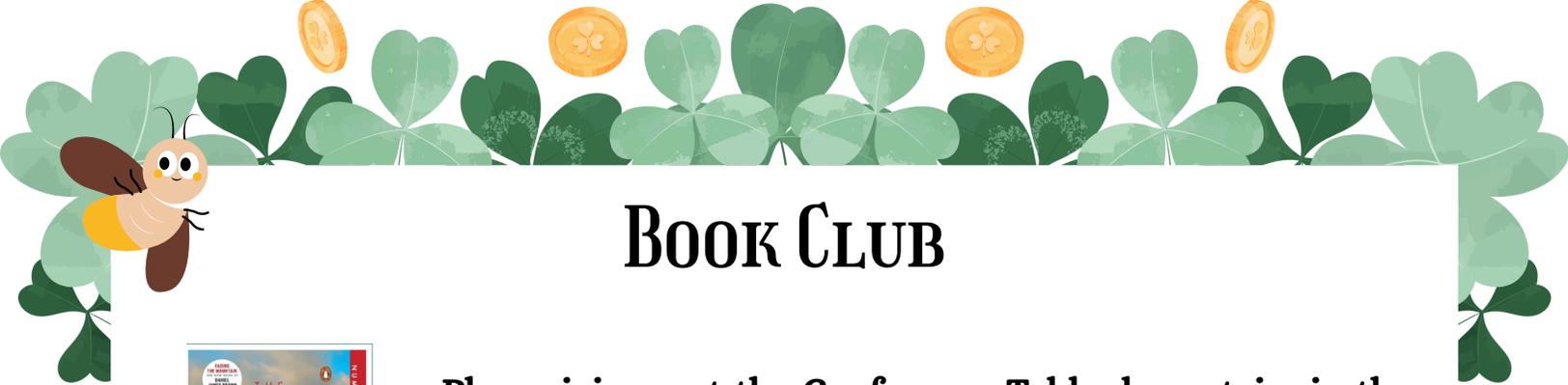
Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:12-17

God calls us to kindness, humility and patience. Yet sometimes we are anything but, I know I can think of times in the past 15 years where I haven't met that standard. God calls us to forgive as richly as we have been forgiven and again I have fallen short. And finally I have not always sung thankful hymns and sometimes I haven't always placed God first. In all of these things I try and in all of these things I have at times fallen short. Thanks be to God therefore for the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ. We are forgiven and called anew. What that means is that assured of God's forgiveness, I am empowered to look ahead at the next 15 years and endeavor to do better. To me that is a foundational piece of our relationship with God, a constant striving to do better

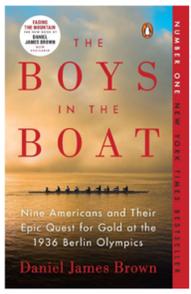
So I encourage you to take a moment and reflect about what you have accomplished, endured and been through over the past 15 years. I encourage you to think about how well you have done following God's call and I encourage you to strive to do better in the next 15.

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, March 25th at 2:30 PM to discuss the inspiring true story, **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT**, by Daniel James Brown.

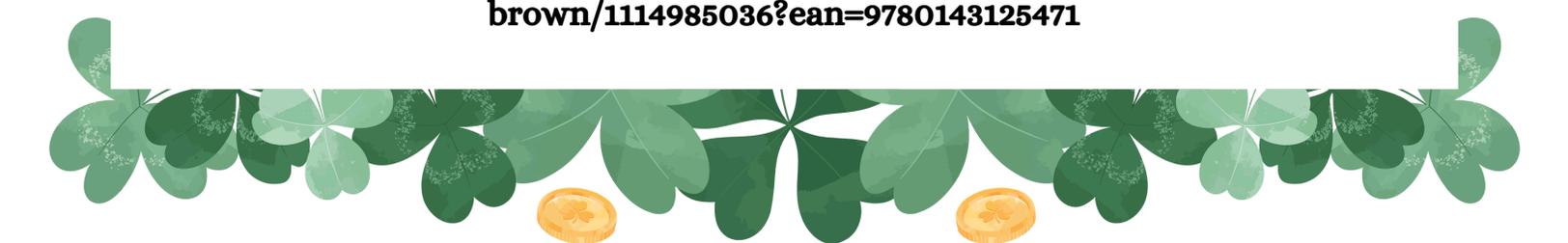
It is an unforgettable account of an underdog rowing team that beats the odds and wins the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Out of the depths of the Depression, the author conveys how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler.

The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal mission.

Read this exciting blend of history and Olympic sport; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-boys-in-the-boat-daniel-james-brown/1114985036?ean=9780143125471>



march



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice	2 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	3 9:30am Quilters 4:00pm - 8:00pm YOUTH: Burrito Project 7:00pm NA Meeting	4 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	5 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	6	7 10:00am - 2:00pm YOUTH: Fundraiser Prep 5:30pm In Person Service
8 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am - 12:00pm Youth: Cinnamon Bun Fundraiser 11:00am Worship & Music Committee 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class 11:30am Property & Grounds	9 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	10 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	11 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 7:00pm Lancaster Garden Club 7:00pm LYMA Mtg.	12 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	13	14 1:00pm - 2:00pm Guiding Eyes 5:30pm In Person Service
15 Good News Articles Due 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am - 12:00pm St Patty's Day Meal - LYMA 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice	16 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	17 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	18 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:30pm BINGO Night	19 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	20	21 1:00am - 2:00am Guiding Eyes 9:30am Congregational Care Meals 5:30pm In Person Service
22 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Service/Mahoney Baptism 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am YOUTH: Easter Eggs 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class	23 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	24 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	25 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	26 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	27	28 1:00am - 2:00am Guiding Eyes 5:30pm In Person Service
29 8:00am Pancake Breakfast 8:00am - 9:30am YOUTH: Breakfast Service 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am - 12:00pm YOUTH: Egg Hunt 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice	30 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	31 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	2 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship @ Elma	3 7:00pm Good Friday Worship @ Lancaster	4 1:00am - 2:00am Guiding Eyes 5:30pm Easter Vigil @ Lancaster

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



UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy & John
Scarafia

March 1, 2026
Sharon Walker

Carol Graham
March 8, 2026

Kathy Snyder
March 15, 2026

Amy & John
Petrunyak

March 22, 2026

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Corinne Rudz
March 29, 2026

DEACONS

3/1/2026

Kathy Konstabel

3/8/2026

Kathy Snyder

3/15/2026

RaeAnn Jakubowski

3/22/2026

Kathy Konstabel

3/29/2026

Kathy Snyder

USHERS

3/1/2026

Janet Sincebaugh
Rick Tomaszewski

3/8/2026

Janet Sincebaugh

Linda Costa

3/15/2026

Rich Rice

Janet Sincebaugh

3/22/2026

Linda Costa

Kathy Burr

3/29/2026

Rich Rice

Rick Tomaszewski



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH

March 3, 4:00 –8:00pm

Optional: Burrito project with Zion youth.

Transportation provided from St. John's.

March 7, 10:00am –2:00pm

FUND RAISER! Join in the fun in making cinnamon buns. You will be able to sample your work. Lunch provided, games during work breaks.

March 8, 10:00am –12:00pm

Sell cinnamon buns before and after church service.

Run coffee hour after service with cinnamon bun samples and fruit.

Socialize with members of congregation.

March 22, 10:00– 11:00am

Fill Easter eggs for Easter egg hunt. Discuss plans for Palm Sunday breakfast and Easter egg hunt that follows service.

March 29, 8:00 –9:30am

Serve breakfast to congregation, family and public

11:00am – 12:00pm

Assist with Easter egg hunt.



ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GROUP

St. John's Elma & Lancaster

this month is on Wed., March 11 @ 11:30am @ the Olive Tree.

Please sign up or call Bev Hess @ 716-868-5096 by Sun., March 8th.

LYMA ST. PATTY'S DAY MEAL

Sunday , March 15th 11am- Sold Out

\$5 Dinner Reserve - Take-out Only - Must Have Ticket

Corned Beef/Cabbage/Vegetables/Bread & Butter

LIMITED TO 100 TICKETS

Sales End March 14th/Sold Out

Contact Gary Rudz @ 716-829-9618



ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE

Arrangements for the altar are now \$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.

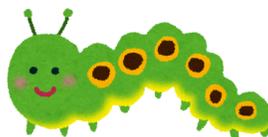
AVAILABLE ALTAR FLOWER DATES

March 1, 8, 22, 29

PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:

Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden
Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R.,
Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster,
Jake, Gloria Richards, Ian Nowicki, Pat
Spanitz, Jenny Gozdziaik, Pastor Erik Hart,
Donna Parr, Alice, Sandy Wiess, Shirley
Hellenbach, and Tom Lafferty





ST. PATTY'S DAY DINNER

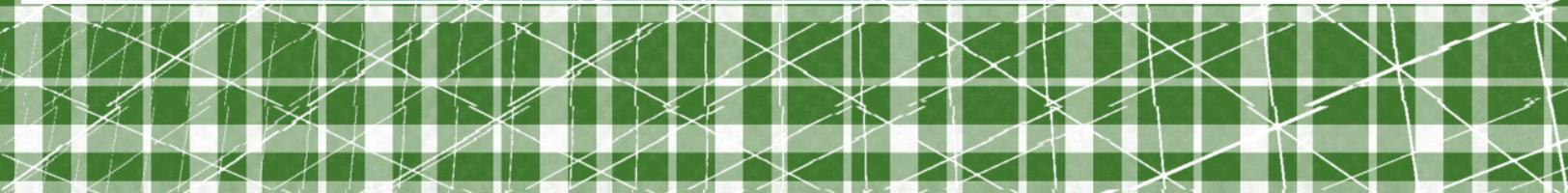
**@ St. John's Lancaster: 55 Pleasant Ave.
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Vegetables/Bread & Butter**

Sunday, March 15th @ 11am

\$5 Dinner Reserve - Takeout Only

**Must Have Ticket! Limited to 100 Tickets
Sales end March 14th or Sold Out**

Contact: Gary Rudz — 716-829-9618





Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday

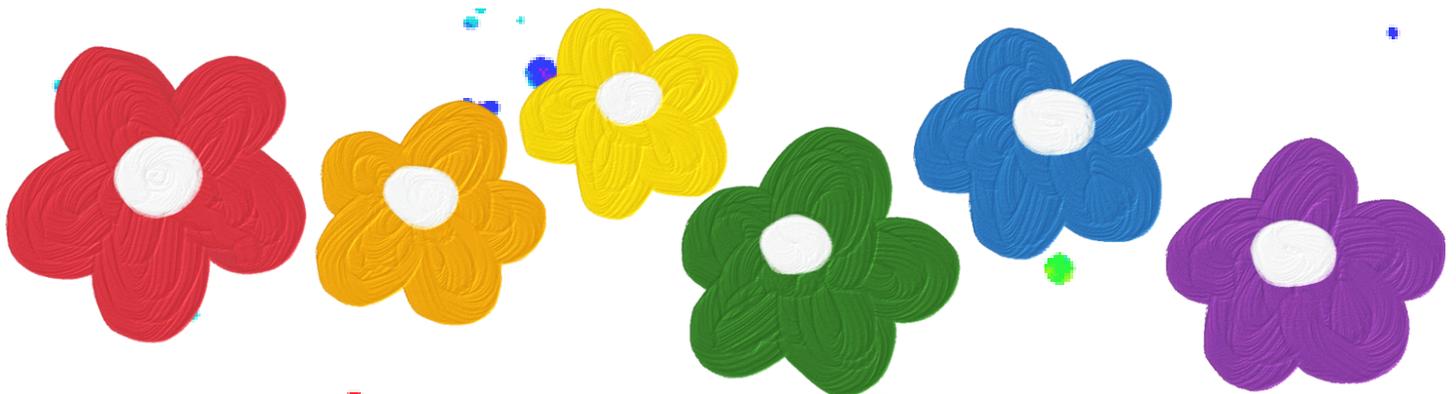
March 29th
from 8-10 am

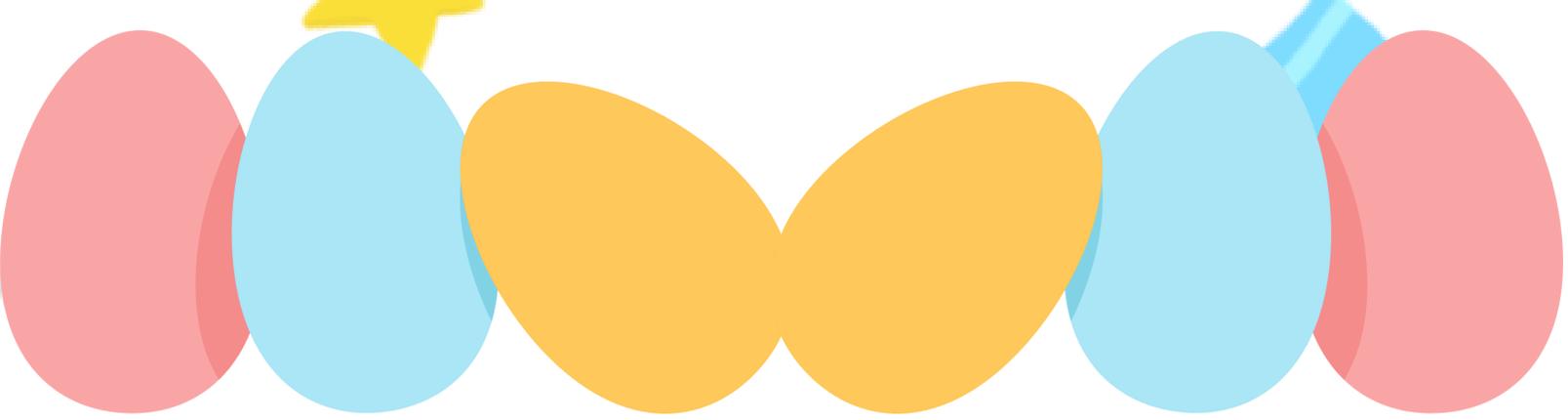
Free will donations accepted

All are Welcome



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





EASTER EGG HUNT

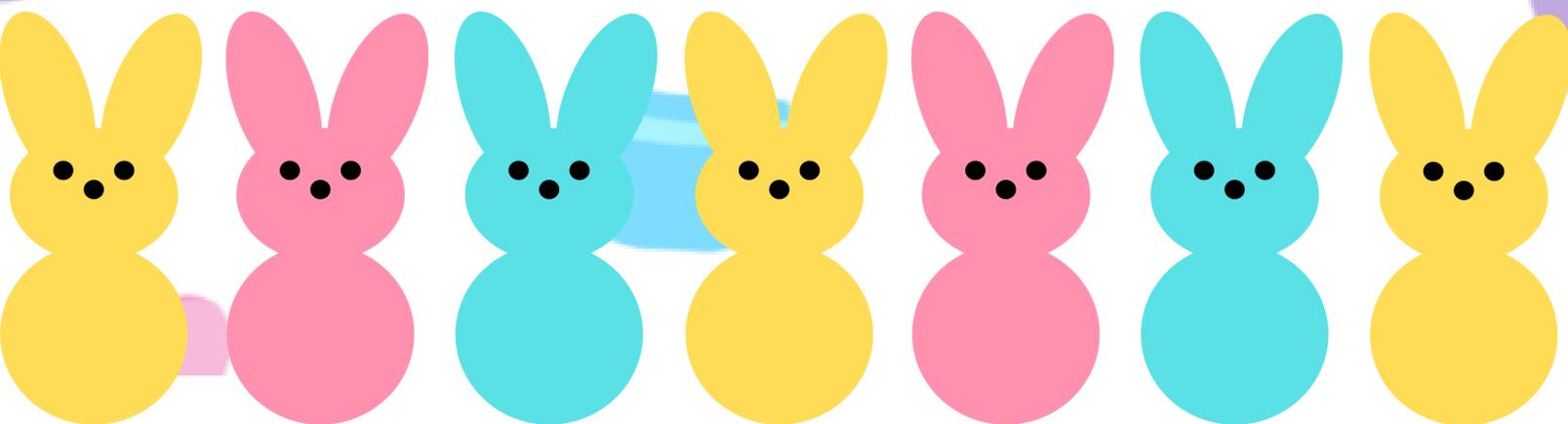
SUNDAY MARCH 29TH

AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, 55 PLEASANT AVE, LANCASTER



For Ages 3- Grade 7
Rain or Shine



LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 29TH

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @ 10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 2ND

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma
2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 3RD

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 4TH

Worship @ 5:30pm @ Lancaster

RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH

Worship @ 8:45am @ Elma

Worship @ 10am @ Lancaster

FASTNACHT SUNDAY ~ APRIL 12TH

Fastnachts @ 8am

Happy Birthday



MAXWELL SALGE, 03-01
SARAH FORBES, 03-01
MELISSA VERDI, 03-01
DAVID SMITH, 03-01
★ ROGER GUARINO, 03-02
ANTHONY SANTUCCI, 03-02
MICHELLE RICE, 03-03
KATELYN DECAIRE, 03-03
BEVERLY FEHR, 03-04
DIANE WNEK, 03-04
MICHAEL SHEEHAN, 03-05
ELIZABETH SIERACKI, 03-06
ANJA SCHIAVONE, 03-06
★ MIKAYLA DURKIN, 03-06
KYLE RUFFNER, 03-07
● AIDAN CARNEY, 03-07
WILLIAM HARDY, 03-08
IRENE HAEFNER, 03-09
● ANTHONY SANTUCCI, 03-09
BRUCE MEYER, 03-10
MIRIEL JACOBS, 03-10
★ MICHAEL SHEEHAN, 03-10
GRACE SHEEHAN, 03-10
MATTHEW MARTIN, 03-11
★ RENAE GENEVIEVE KRAWCZYK, 03-11
SARAH GAGLIARDI, 03-15
● DARLENE KRAMER, 03-15
ETHAN GALANTE, 03-17
CLAIRE BUCCIERI, 03-17
● BRANDON RUFFNER, 03-17
JAMES HALE, 03-18
SONJA DEMBSKI, 03-18

MEGAN POWERS, 03-18 ●
RONALD JR. KJELDGAARD, 03-19
DAVID KUNSELMAN, 03-19
MATTHEW ORBAN, 03-19 ★
DALTON BUSH, 03-20 ★
THOMAS KRAMER, 03-20
JAMES ENGELBACH-SCHAFFER, 03-20
CEDAR WILLADSEN, 03-20
JEROME MAYER, 03-21 ●
ASHLIE KOHLHAGEN, 03-21
TAYLOR KIENER, 03-22
PAUL DYKSTRA, 03-22 ●
MEGAN KREHER, 03-22
TIMOTHY STRANC, 03-22
KRISTOFFER SCHIAVONE, 03-22
STEVEN BRANKA, 03-24 ●
CHRISTINE RUFFNER, 03-25
SARALYNN NANTKA, 03-26
NORAH HARRINGTON, 03-27 ●
JEAN CONKLIN, 03-27
KATHRYN WILDRIDGE, 03-28
AUBREE LACORTE, 03-28 ★
EMILIA REFERMAT, 03-28 ★
MARGARET SAVASH, 03-29
VICKY CHANG, 03-29
KEVIN McHALE, 03-29 ●
JULIE BUCCIERI, 03-29 ●
TRACEY FROST, 03-29
DEBORAH MASTRANGELO, 03-30 ●
DANIELLE ZAK, 03-30 ●
DIANE MENICHELLI, 03-31

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

Tom Frost

Sam Gierlinger

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Marjorie Kruger

Jeff Miller

Rich Rice

Paul Rudz

Kelly Sieracki





ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

55 PLEASANT AVE

LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



Follow us on Facebook!
@stjohnslancaster



***May the Lord bless you
and take care of you;
May the Lord be kind
and gracious to you;
May the Lord look on you with
favor and give you peace.***

Numbers 6:24-26