

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 18, 2025

The Prelude  
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come. **Amen.**

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ.

Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

*Silence for Prayer & Confession*

God our helper,  
**we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news. **Amen.**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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## The Prayer of the Day

**O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



### The First Reading Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.

He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

Psalm 148  
*Read Responsively*

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,

**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near  
the Lord. Hallelujah!**



## Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

### The Alleluia

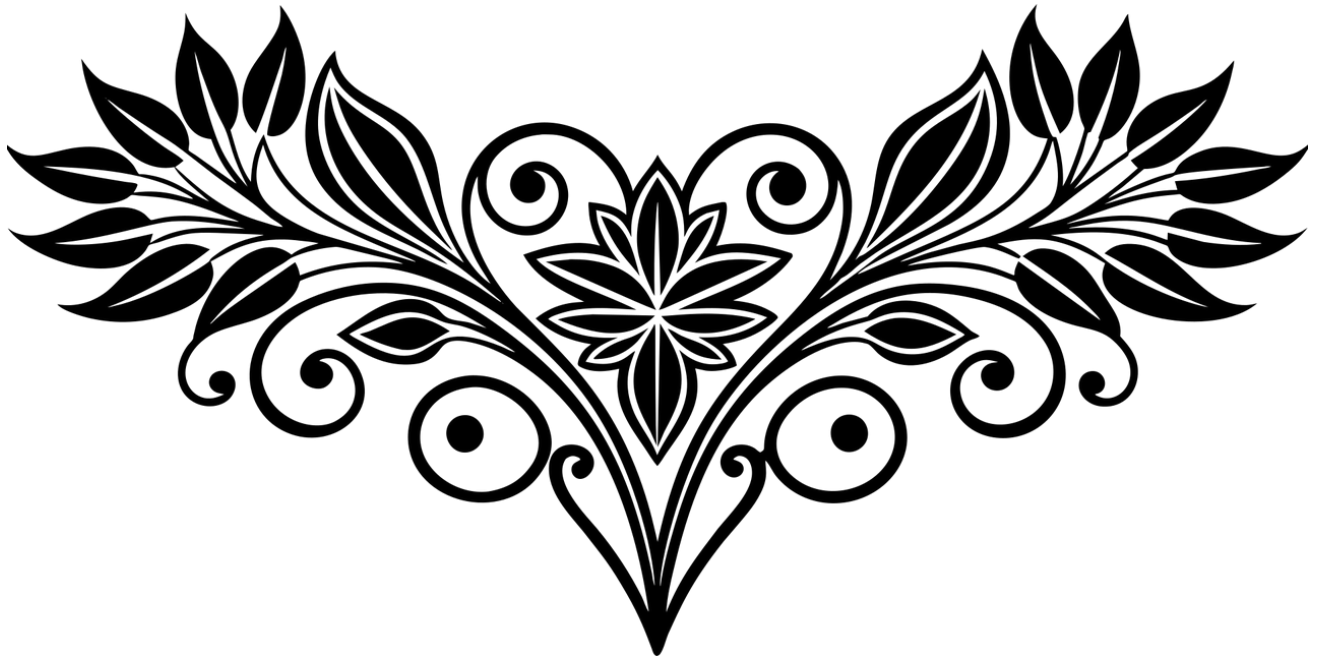
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel Reading  
John 13:31-35  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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



The Sermon  
Rev. Jamie Retallack



*I Come with Joy*

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## Prayers of Intercession

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places (local or regional places may be named). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Antoinette, Issac, Stacey, Jim & Deb, Kelly R., and Kathy Snyder). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (especially Erik, King of Sweden). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you,  
O God, trusting that you are always with us;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

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

## The Offering

### 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.

### The Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **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.

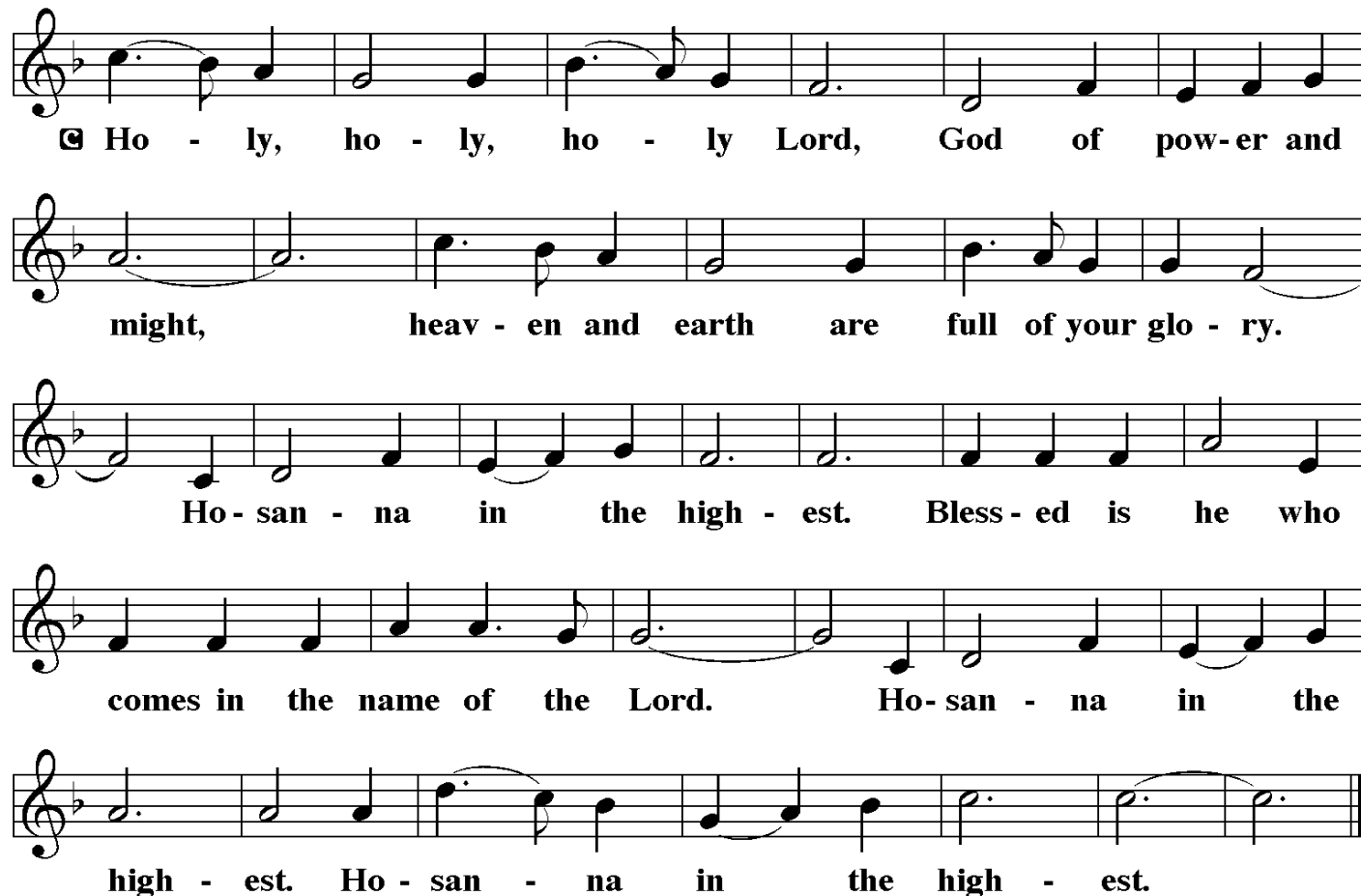
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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



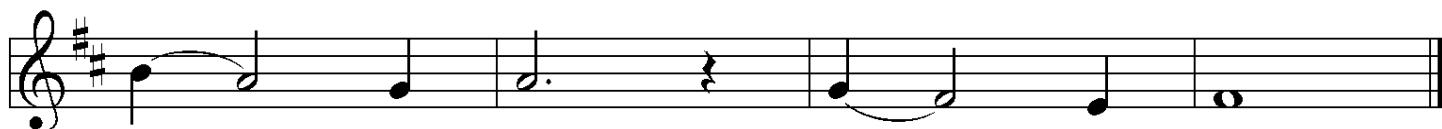
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

## The Benediction



*Spirit, Open My Heart*

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

## The Sending

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

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.

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Antoinette, Issac, Stacey, Jim & Deb, Kelly R., and Kathy Snyder.

### Quarterly Statements are available upon request.

If you would like to receive quarterly statements in the mail, please sign up, or let the office know.

### 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:** Amy & John Petrunyak

**Deacon:** Paul Rudz

**Ushers:** Linda Costa & Kathy Burr

**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, June 11th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, KILLS WELL WITH OTHERS, by Deanna Raybourn.

**Altar Flower Arrangements**

are \$30 (for 2). To dedicate flowers use the envelopes provided in church or contact the church office by phone (716-683-8972) or email (stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com). Dedications must be submitted by the Monday before the dedication date.

**Available Altar Flower Dates:**

May 25 & June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

**Offering:** 5/11/25 - \$ 2070.10

**GOT SNEAKERS???** Guiding Eyes for the Blind is having a sneaker drive with a sneaker recycling organization called GotSneakers. If you would like to help, please bring in your used/old sneakers and deposit them in the receptacle in the Fellowship Hall marked GotSneakers? Thank you!

The flowers on the altar today are in memory of Robert Nagel from his wife Karen and Family.

## SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
QUILTERS	8:00AM	
BIBLE STUDY	9:00AM	MEMORIAL LOUNGE
JOYSINGERS	9:30AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM
IN PERSON/ ONLINE SERVICE	10:00AM	SANCTUARY
SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:00AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM
COFFEE HOUR	11:00AM	MEMORIAL LOUNGE
CONFIRMATION CLASS	11:00AM	
WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	11:00AM	

## MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS	10:00AM - 3:00PM	CHURCH OFFICE
GUIDING EYES	4:30PM	FELLOWSHIP HALL
LYMA GOLF	5:15PM	KIS-N-GREENS ALDEN
PASTOR: WEDDING MEETING	6:00PM	
CHORDSMEN	7:30PM	CHAPEL

## TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
NA MEETING	7:00PM	FELLOWSHIP HALL

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS	10:00AM - 3:00PM	CHURCH OFFICE
BOOK CLUB	2:30PM	CHAPEL - CONFERENCE AREA

## THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS	10:00AM - 3:00PM	CHURCH OFFICE
BIBLE STUDY	1:00PM	CHAPEL - CONFERENCE AREA
HANDBELL PRACTICE	6:30PM	SANCTUARY
CHOIR PRACTICE	7:30PM	CHOIR ROOM

## SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
IN PERSON SERVICE	5:30PM	CHAPEL

## SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
BIBLE STUDY	9:00AM	MEMORIAL LOUNGE
JOYSINGERS	9:30AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM
IN PERSON/ ONLINE SERVICE	10:00AM	SANCTUARY
SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:00AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM



# BIBLE TRIVIA NIGHT

Come test your  
Biblical knowledge

May  
16th

St. John's Lutheran  
Church - 6:15 - 8:00  
55 Pleasant Ave,  
Lancaster, NY, 14086

RSVP to Samantha at  
(716) 309-9651 or RaeAnn at (716)  
474-1873

(Or sign-up in person at St  
John's Lancaster, Elma or Zion.)

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