

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



Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Baptism of Our Lord
Saturday, January 10, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty
was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of
Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you,
our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness
of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you
strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

WOV 690

Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

The Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through 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

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,

and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 (*Read Responsively*)

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

**The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

The Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

The Alleluia



C 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
Matthew 3:13-17
Glory to you, O God.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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



The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

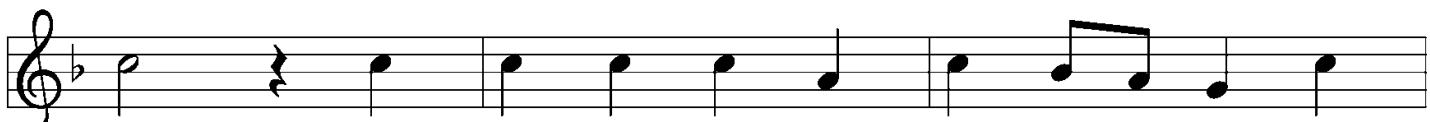
Hymn of the Day

ELW 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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Prayers of Intercession

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (local water sources may be named). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Carolyn Yarrington, Gloria, Jake, Judy, Richard Schmidt, and the Simpson/Hall Family). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are home-bound. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our 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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Gathering of the Gifts



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

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and gather at your table.

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 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

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

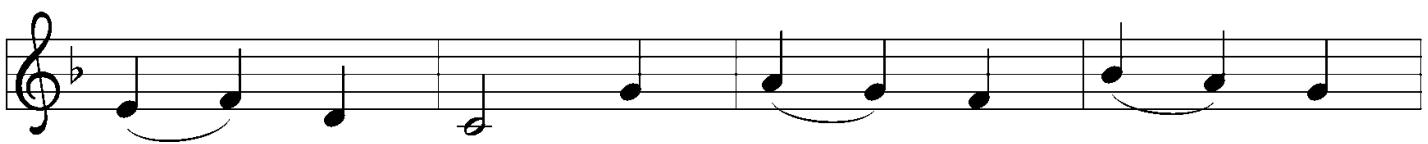


The Benediction

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to share the poor, God's fa - vor to blind pro - claim.
 cher - ish dream and help do the to see.
 pow - ered life, to go the in ing deed.
 name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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The Sending

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

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:

St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.
St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

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

1/4/2026

\$ 2542.67

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!



The flowers on the altar today are in memory of Charles and Sheila Gibbs from Janis Gibbs.

Altar Guild: Kathy Snyder
Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski
Ushers: Janet Sincebaugh & Rick Tomszewski

Altar Flower Arrangements:
as of January 1, 2026, flower arrangements are \$40 (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: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

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, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Carolyn Yarrington, Gloria, Jake, Judy, Richard Schmidt, and the Simpson/Hall Family.

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, January 21st at 2:30 PM to
discuss the novel, THE FIRST LIE WINS, by Ashley Elston.

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!

From the Salvation Army:

Thank you for being a part of our toy drive to provide toys for children in need in our community. Together we were able to provide gifts for over 1,000 children! Please extend our gratitude to all who supported this effort. Happy New Year!

YOUTH EVENTS

St John's Lock-In 1/16 @ 7pm thru 1/17 @ 8am

Bring a snack to share. RSVP to Jamie Kloc or Kelly Sieracki.

Sledding @ Elma Meadows 1/18 from 1-3pm

Snacks and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Kelly Sieracki & be sure to let her know if you will need transportation.

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!

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!

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslancaster)

Collecting Dash's Register Receipts: Save your Dash's receipts and deposit them in the boxes in the Sanctuary or the Chapel to benefit Niagara Lutheran Health Services. Thank you!

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00Am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00Am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00Am	
Worship & Music Committee	11:00Am	
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

Monday, January 12, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00Am - 3:00Pm	Church Office
Guiding Eyes	5:00pm - 7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00Am - 3:00Pm	Church Office

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Good News Articles Due		
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

Friday, January 16, 2026

Event	Time	Location
YOUTH: Lock-In	7:00pm	St. John's - Youth Lounge

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30Pm	Chapel

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00Am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00Am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00Am	
Coffee Hour	11:00am	Memorial Lounge
YOUTH: Sledding	1:00pm - 3:00Pm	Elma Meadows



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

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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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