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



Sunday Worship

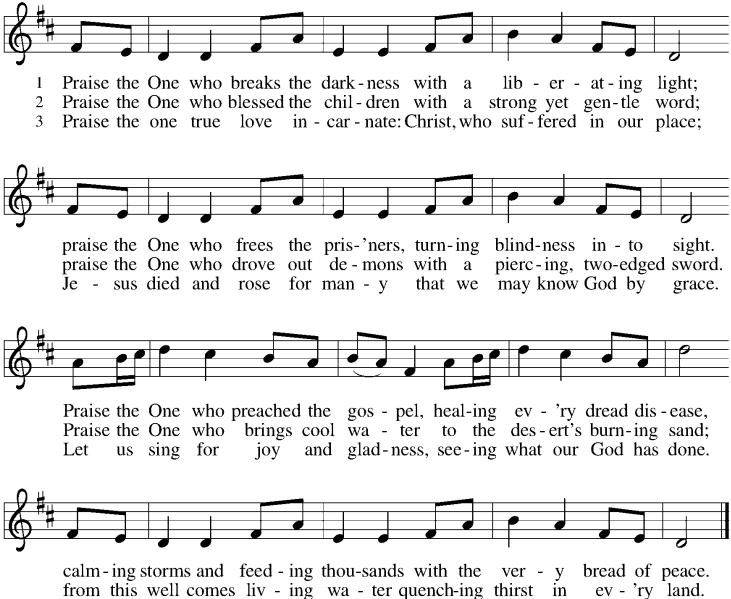
Rev. Jamie Retallack 716-848-9683 Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 19, 2023

> The Prelude The Greetings The Invocation

Opening Hymn

ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise



The First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

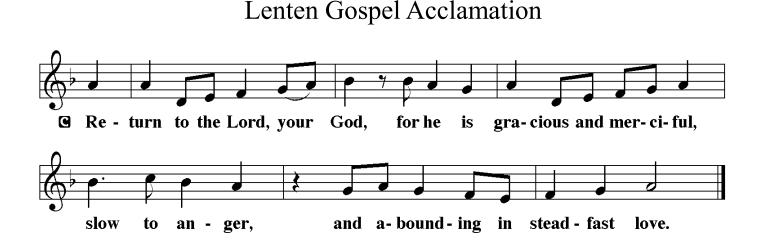
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

> "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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



The Gospel Reading John 9:1-41 Glory to you, O God.

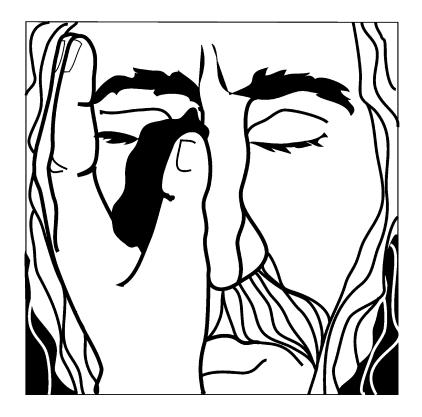
As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

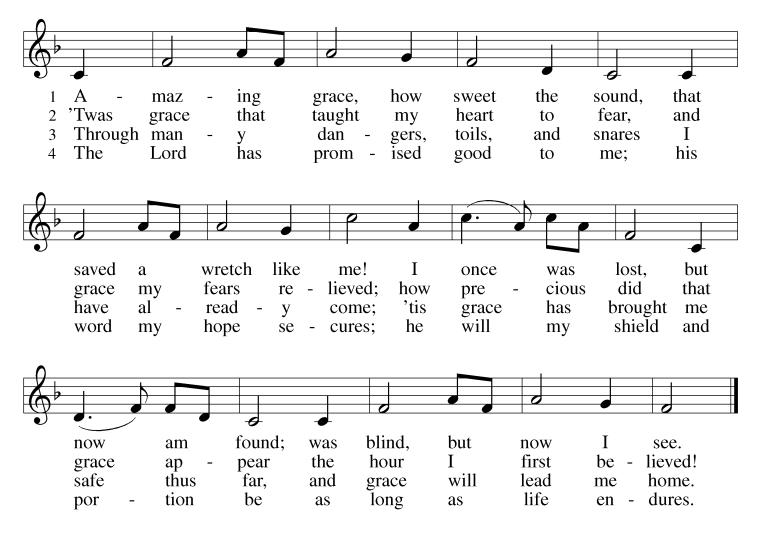


The Sermon Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

LBW 448

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials (specific leaders may be named). Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (especially)Elliana Meyers, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Brad Hueseke, Roberta Anzelone, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Bernie Lewis, Jon Drosendahl, and the family and friends of Barbara Pionessa. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community (especially). Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ 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.

...We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Offertory Music

The Offertory Hymn Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble. 1 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure. 2 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you. 3 as we're a - ble. not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly We do What once was com - mon, dail - y food be-comes a ho - ly trea-sure. as hum-bly we Lord, by your grace now come to us, a - dore you.

The Offertory Prayer

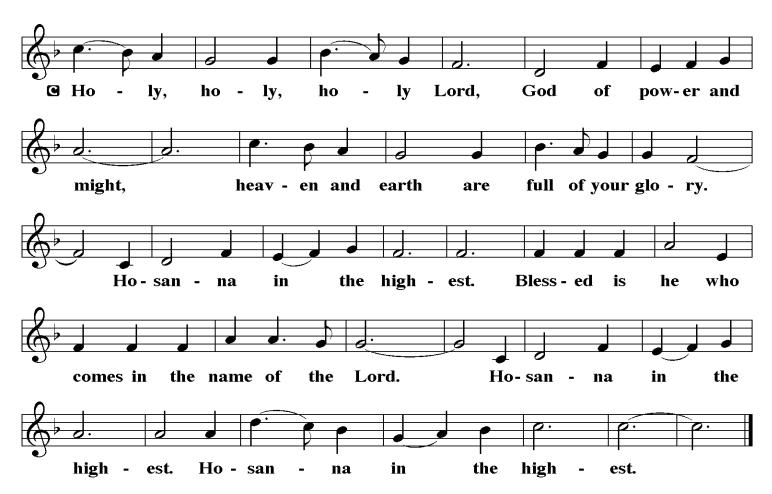
God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



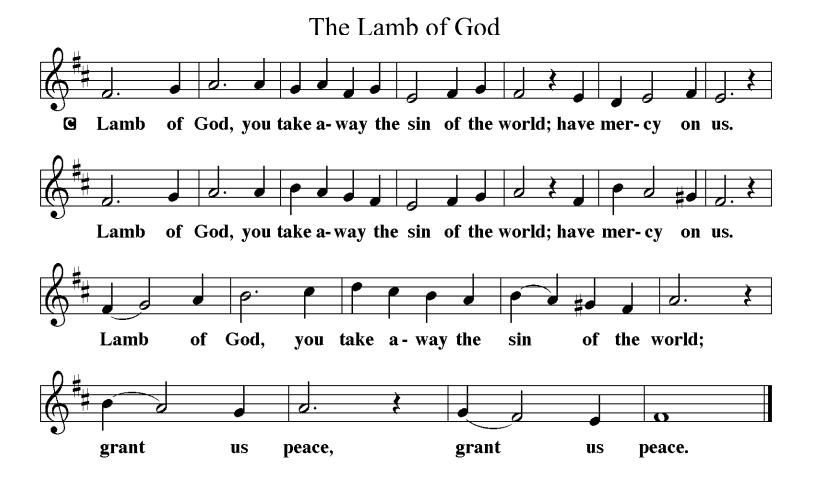
The Sanctus

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



Communion Music

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

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Be Thou My Vision



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> The Sending Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

The People of St. John's Welcome You to 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.

This Week at a Glance			
Sunday	3/19	9:00am	In Person/Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	3/19	10:30am	In Person/Streamed Service
Sunday	3/19	12:00pm	St. Patty's Dinner
Monday	3/20	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	3/20	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	3/21	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	3/21	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	3/23	1:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	3/23	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday	3/23	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	3/24	5:30pm	YOUTH- Pizza
Friday	3/24	6:00pm	YOUTH– Soup Prep
Friday	3/24	7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Saturday	3/25	5:30pm	In Person Service
Saturday	3/25	after srvc	Soup Sale
Saturday	3/25	7:00pm	Open Stage Event
Sunday	3/26	8:00am	Fastnacht Sunday
Sunday	3/26	9:00am	In Person/Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	3/26		Soup Sale
Sunday	3/26	10:30am	In Person/Streamed Service

We pray for Elliana Meyers, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Brad Hueseke, Roberta Anzelone, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Bernie Lewis, Jon Drosendahl and the family and friends of Barbara Pionessa.

<u>Ushers</u> 9:00am Sam Miller & Paul Rudz 10:30am Bev Hess & Carol Graham <u>Altar Guild</u> Cheryl Helwig & Kathy Snyder <u>Deacons</u> 9am RaeAnn Jakubowski & Kathy Konstabel

Book Club

Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 PM to discuss Colleen Hoover's novel. IT ENDS WITH US.

<u>St Patty's Day Dinner - Sun Mar 19th Noon-3pm</u> WE SOLD OUT, Thank you! If you purchased tickets, don't forget to pick up your dinners.

<u>St. John's Open Stage Event</u> Saturday, March 25th @ 7pm

Back by popular demand, the St. John's Open Stage Event! David Sieracki will MC this showcase. Join us to enjoy and cheer on all of St. John's talent.

Service Schedule Update

Beginning on April 16th we will be implementing a new Sunday schedule. We will have one service at 10am, with Sunday school meeting at the same time. Council is thankful for all your feedback that guided this decision, and are looking forward to the change. Thank you.

> **Altar Flower Arrangements** are \$30 (for 2). Available dates: 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/28

On <u>Mother's Day, May 14th</u>, we will be having our first annual <u>Music Sunday</u>. The service will be full of as much music as possible and we are asking those of you who would like to participate to let Vicky know. Musicians of any type are invited to be a part of the service, so join us in making a joyful noise to the LORD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2nd

Youth Breakfast Prep @ 7:30am Pancake Breakfast 8am~10am Worship @ 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30am

HOLY DAYS WORSHIP SCHEDULE Palm Sunday Worship April 2nd @10:30am Maundy Thursday Worship April 6th @ 7pm Good Friday Worship April 7th @ 7pm Easter Vigil ~ Saturday Worship April 8th @ 5:30pm Easter Sunday Worship April 9th 9am & 10:30 am

> **CHOWDER SALE** Sunday, April 23rd

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-



SOUP SALE YOUTH FUNDRAISER



March 25th

after 5:30pm service March 26th

between 9am & 10:30am services & after 10:30am service

Cheesy Potato Soup \$8⁰⁰ Qt

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2nd

Youth Breakfast Prep @ 7:30am Pancake Breakfast 8am-10am Worship @ 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30am

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

SOUP SALE—YOUTH FUNDRAISER March 24th Pizza & Drinks @ 5:30pm Soup Prep. from 6-8pm March 25th Attend Service @ 5:30pm Sell Soups after Service March 26th Sell Soup between 9am &10:30am Services Sell Soup after 10:30am Service

EASTER EGG HUNT

Максн 31st @6рм Prep/Fill eggs for Palm Sunday April 2nd Help @ Easter Egg Hunt after Service

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Palm Sunday–April 2nd

Breakfast Prep @ 7:30am Pancake Service from 8-10am Worship Service @ 10:30am Egg Hunt after Worship Service

MORE UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

WORK DAY

APRIL 15TH @ LCLC Meet @ St John's @ 7:15am Return around 5pm Please dress for outdoor work (old shoes or boots and a change of clothes) Please bring water bottle & snacks for the ride Lunch will be served

LCLC Summer Programs

In every camp program we strive to meet the following outcomes:

- To provide a time and place for encountering God, self, others, and nature.
- To positively affect campers' faith at LCLC and at home.
- To provide an environment where campers are safe and happy and have fun.
- To positively affect and build campers' life skills including: independence, inter -personal skills, self-esteem, problem solving skills, and stick-to-itiveness.

Camperships Available! We want to help. LCLC continues its pledge to never turn a child away due to financial need. Thanks to the St. John's Home Board and to some very generous individual donors, we have funding available to help children get to camp. Please complete Financial Assistance Form to apply.

If you have questions please call 716-386-4125. We'll be happy to help.

https://www.lclcenter.org/summer-programs

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.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)** www.stjohnslanc.org

stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

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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