

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Parking Lot Service, Tune to 95.1 FM

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 7, 2024

The Prelude
The Greetings

Opening Hymn

LBW 143

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We truly repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

Rejoice and be glad! God hears the prayers of all who cry out, and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The First Reading
Acts 4:32-35 (NRSVUE)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

Psalm 133 (NRSV)
Read Responsively

How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head,
flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon
flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing:
life forevermore.

The Second Reading
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (NRSVUE)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 20:19-31 **Glory to you, O God.**

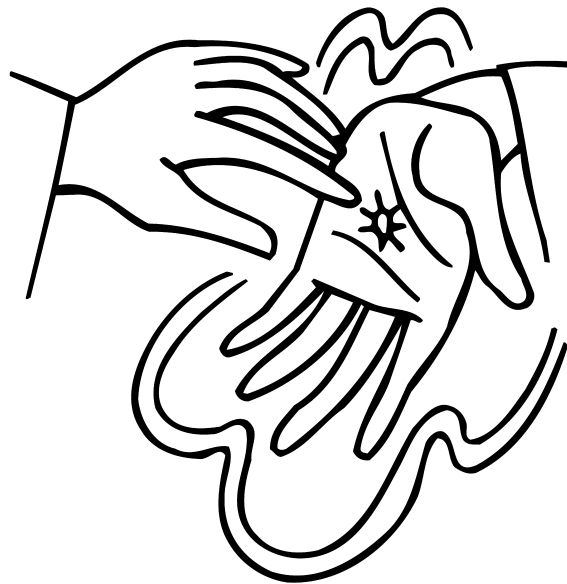
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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



The Sermon
Vicar Teresa O'Connor

Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes

1 Peace, to soothe our bit - ter woes, God in Christ on us be - stows;
 2 Peace with - in the church still dwells in our wel - comes and fare - wells;

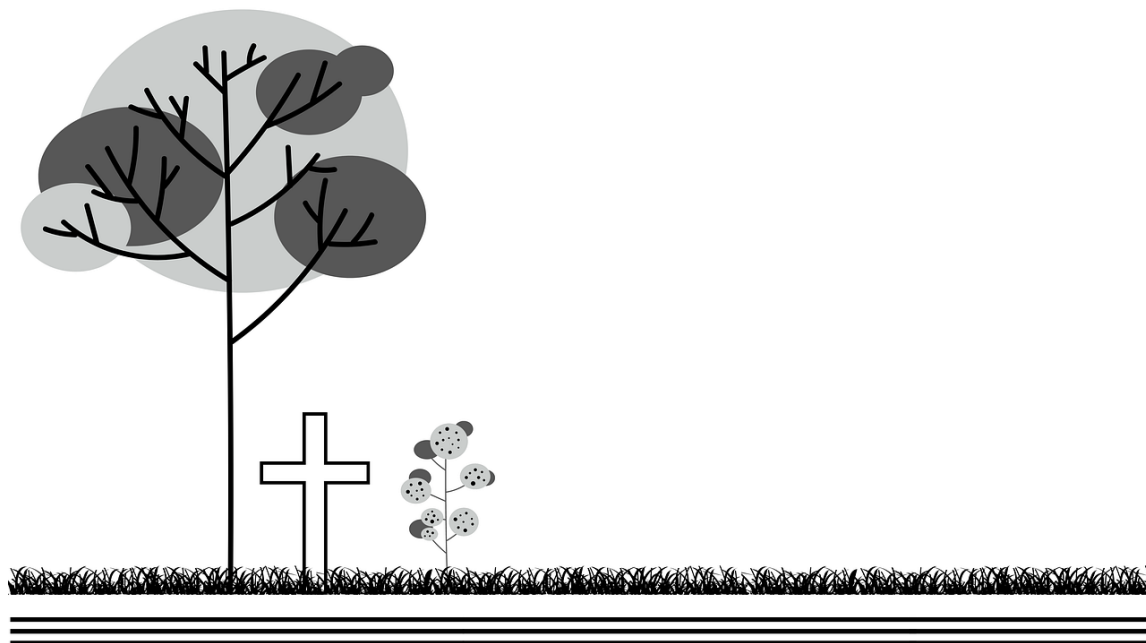


Je - sus bought our peace with God with his ho - ly, pre - cious blood;
 and through God's bap - tis - mal pow'r peace sur - rounds our dy - ing hour.



peace in him for sin - ners found is the gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 Peace be with you, full and free, now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887



Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (especially)Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Patricia Kostecky, Tom & Ruth Morse, Donald Weibel, Tracy, Bob Valois, Sandra Forrest, Jim Kenline, Ray, Donna Herget, and Jess Gervasio. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you (especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel). Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. 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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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



- 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

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The Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

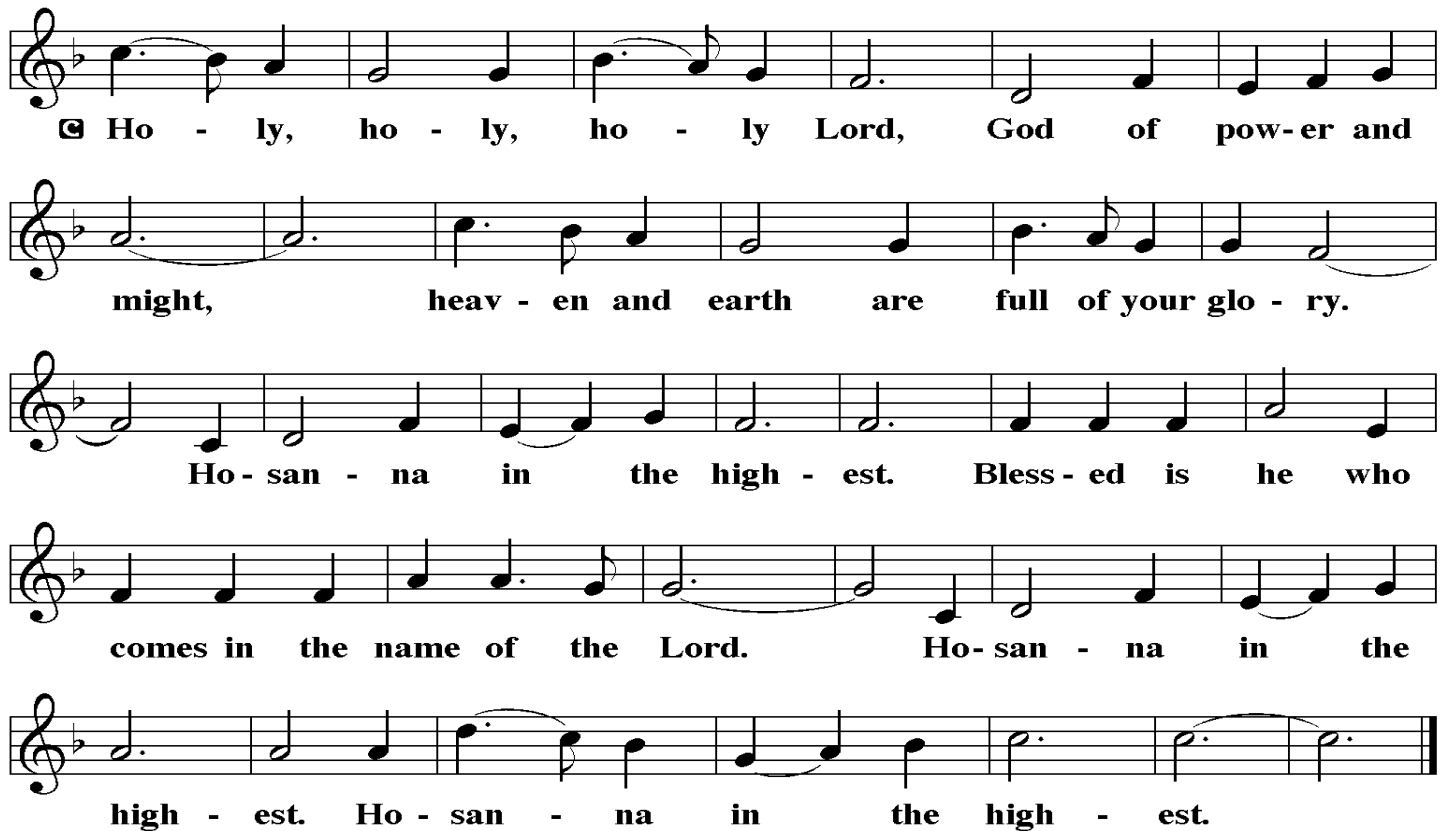
The Great Thanksgiving

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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



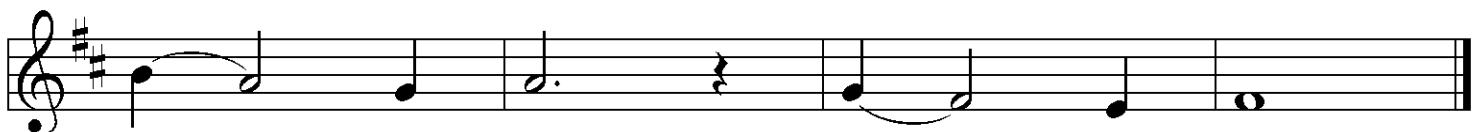
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

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

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

The Benediction

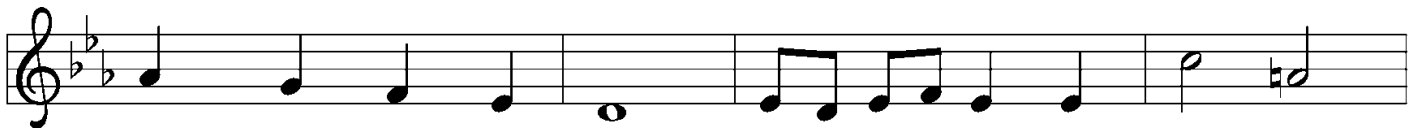
Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

The Sending
 Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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	4/7	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	4/7	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	4/7	10:00am	Worship
Sunday	4/7	10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday	4/7	11:30am	Confirmation
Monday	4/8	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	4/8	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	4/9	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	4/9	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	4/10	7:00pm	Lancaster Garden Club
Wednesday	4/10	7:30pm	LYMA
Thursday	4/11	1:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	4/11	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday	4/11	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	4/13	1:00pm	Congregational Care Committee
Saturday	4/13	5:30pm	Worship
Sunday	4/14	9:0am	Joysingers
Sunday	4/14	10:00am	In-Person/Streamed Worship
Sunday	4/14	10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday	4/14	11:00am	Confirmation

Ushers
Bev Hess
Linda Costa

Deacon
Paul Rudz

Altar Guild
Cheryl Helwig
Kathy Snyder

Book Club

Please join us on Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 PM
to discuss Ariel Lawhon's novel, THE FROZEN RIVER.

Altar Flower Dates Available:

4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/26
\$30 for two bouquets

We lift up Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Patricia Kosticky, Tom & Ruth Morse, Donald Weibel, Tracy, Bob Valois, Sandra Forrest, Jim Kenline, Ray, Donna Herget, and Jess Gervasio.

Offering: 3/31/24: 2774.31

Upcoming AED and CPR Training

AED Training: Wednesday, April 24th @ 7pm

AED & CPR Training: Wednesday, May 22nd @ 7pm

More details coming soon!

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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COFFEE HOUR

will be held after service on Sunday, April 21st

YOUTH EVENTS

Confirmation

April 7th & 21st

Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser

Sunday, April 21st: Set-up @ 9am - Serve 11am-2pm

Spring Retreat

April 26th-28th @ LCLC

Work Day: Sat, April 27th @ LCLC

Tapestry Project: Sun, April 28th 6-8pm

GOT SNEAKERS??? Guiding Eyes for the Blind is having a sneaker drive through a sneaker recycling organization called GotSneakers. Gotsneakers has recycled and reused 2.5 million pairs of shoes (and counting!) If you would like to help Guiding Eyes, the environment, and some of the 600 million people in the world who don't even own a pair of shoes, please bring in your used/old sneakers and deposit them in the receptacle marked GotSneakers? Thank you!

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 to St. John's Lutheran!



Soup Fest

Fellowship Event



April 20th
4pm~7pm

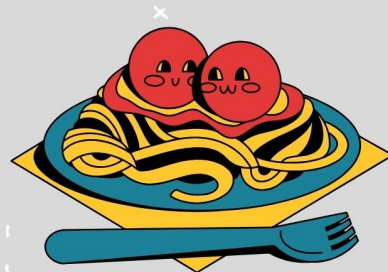
St. John's Lutheran Church ~ 55 Pleasant Ave

Spaghetti Luncheon

Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, April 21st

from 11am-2pm



St. John's Lutheran 55 Pleasant Ave Lancaster

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

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Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)

Carol Graham (Vice-President)

Karen McClintock (Secretary)

Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Sam Gierlinger

Samuel Miller

RaeAnn Jakubowski

David Nester

Jamie Kloc

Rich Rice

Marjorie Kruger

Kelly Sieracki

Jeff Miller

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