

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

DECEMBER 2025



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

MON-WED-THURS (Lancaster)

TUES (Elma)

10:00AM-3:00PM

716-683-8972

STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM

STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

My article will be a little different today as I want to let you know about all the work going on at both Churches and our properties. God calls us to be good stewards of our resources. Those who have gone before us have blessed us with amazing property and grounds, and we seek to be good stewards of what they have left for us.

At the Lancaster church we have revamped our electrical breaker boxes and some of our wiring. We wanted to make sure that all of our electrical systems were in good shape so we didn't end up with any larger problems down the line. We also had the spotlights at the front of the sanctuary, which were burned out, replaced with new spotlights that won't burn out as easily. The sanctuary has never been brighter. When this was done, we had the old fans and projectors removed, both were antiquated. The projectors were unnecessary because of the TVs in the front, and the ceiling fans were unnecessary because the vent fan in the steeple replaced them. We also are just about to finish up remodeling one of the bathrooms on the third floor to go along with the renovated youth lounge. Finally, we replaced the blacktop on a section of our parking lot that had developed a hole. It should serve us well for years to come.

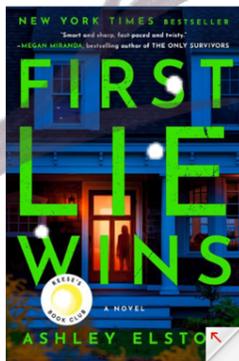
The back parsonage has undergone a bit of work too. All of the windows were replaced with new energy efficient ones. Many of the older windows were quite worn, drafty and even allowed precipitation into the house at times. The upstairs full bath (the only full bath) was gutted to the studs and rebuilt and re-tiled, and new fixtures were installed. It was discovered that there was a mold problem originating in the wall behind the shower, so the decision was made that a full renovation was the best path forward. The house has always been a pleasure to live in, but now even more-so than ever.

At the Elma church, we have been undergoing a total renovation of the basement social hall and kitchen. Both were stripped to the studs and rebuilt: new epoxy floor, drywall ceilings and walls, new cabinets and countertops in the kitchen as well as a new island. We also enhanced our storage space to give more space to store Sunday school and other supplies. Perhaps most importantly a new handicapped accessible bathroom has been installed, the first such bathroom we've had. The entire space is beautiful and should serve us well for generations to come. I look forward to many coffee hours and activities in the new space.

We have been very busy caring for our properties. This isn't just an investment into buildings though, it is an investment in the ministries that are housed in those buildings. We care for what we have while recognizing that the church isn't a building, it is the people, the body of Christ. We look forward to many generations of that body utilizing the spaces we have been caring for.

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

Evie Porter has everything a nice Southern girl could want: a doting boyfriend, a house with a white picket fence, a tight group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter doesn't exist.

The identity comes first: Evie Porter. Once she's given a name and location by her mysterious boss, Mr. Smith, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job.

Evie isn't privy to Mr. Smith's real identity, but she knows this job isn't like the others. Ryan has gotten under her skin, and she's starting to envision a different sort of life for herself. But Evie can't make any mistakes—especially after what happened last time.

Evie Porter must stay one step ahead of her past while making sure there's still a future in front of her. The stakes couldn't be higher – but then, Evie has always liked a challenge.

Read this twisty cat-and-mouse suspense story; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/first-lie-wins-ashley-elston/1143331345?ean=9780193492932>



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Advent 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Confirmation Class 1:00pm - 3:00pm Friendsgiving	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	2 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	3 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm - 7:00pm Women's Fellowship Christmas	4 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	5	6 9:00am - 3:00pm Kathy Snyder - Baking 5:30pm In Person Service
7 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	8 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	9 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	10 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 9:00pm Garden Club Christmas Party 6:00pm - 10:00pm LYMA Christmas Party	11 10:00am bxl - Copier Delivery/Set-Up 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am - 2:00pm Angel Tree Pick-Up 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	12	13 11:00am Funeral - Arno Konstabel 5:30pm In Person Service
14 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Confirmation Class 11:30am Property & Grounds 4:00pm - 7:00pm YOUTH - Christmas Party	15 Good News Articles Due 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	16 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Budget Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	17 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	18 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	19	20 10:00am - 1:00pm Guiding Eyes 5:30pm Blue Christmas Service
21 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship\Pageant 11:00am Coffee Hour	22 Church Office Closed 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Council Budget Meeting 7:30pm Chordsmen	23 Church Office Closed 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	24 Church Office Closed 5:00pm Worship @ Elma 7:00pm Worship @ Lancaster 10:30pm Worship @ Lancaster	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26	27 5:30pm In Person Service
28 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Confirmation Class	29 Church Office Closed 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	30 Church Office Closed 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	31 Church Office Closed	1 Church Office Closed	2	3 5:30pm In Person Service

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



UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Snyder
December 7, 2025

Amy & John Petrunyak
December 14, 2025

RaeAnn Jakubowski
Timmy Gierlinger
December 21, 2025

Sharon Walker
Carol Graham
December 24, 2025

Kelly Sieracki
Corinne Rudz
December 28, 2025

Nancy & John Scarafia
January 4, 2026

USHERS

12/7/2025
Rich Rice
Rick Tomaszewski

12/14/2025
Greg Wildridge
Janet Sincebaugh

12/21/2025
Linda Costa
Kathy Burr

12/24/25 @ 7pm
Janet Sincebaugh
TBD

12/24/25 @ 1030pm
TBD
TBD

12/28/2025
Janet Sincebaugh
Rick Tomaszewski

1/4/2026
Rich Rice
Linda Costa

DEACONS

12/7/2025
RaeAnn Jakubowski

12/14/2025
Kathy Snyder

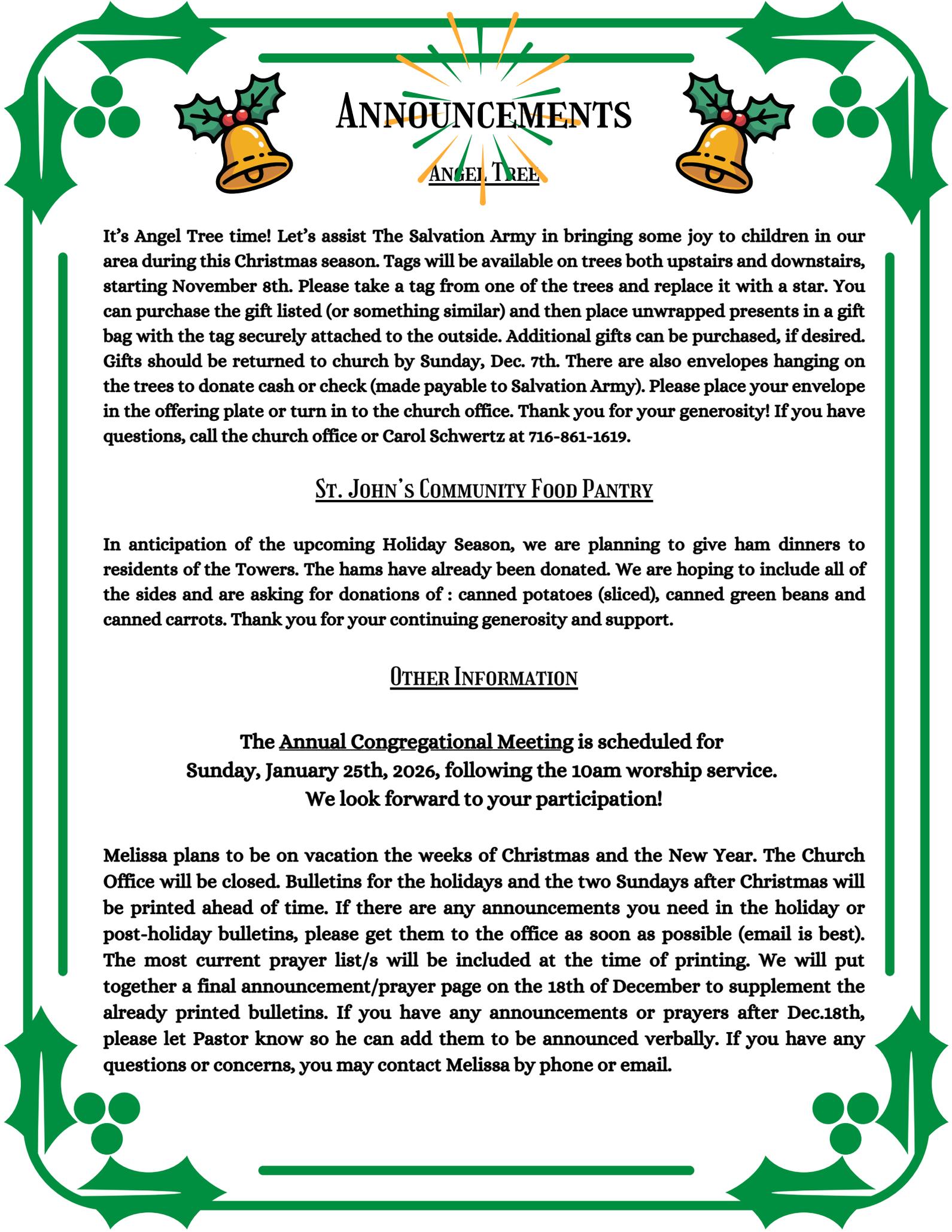
12/21/2025
RaeAnn Jakubowski

12/24/25 @ 7pm
RaeAnn Jakubowski

12/24/25 @ 1030pm
TBD

12/28/2025
Kathy Snyder

1/4/2026
RaeAnn Jakubowski



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANGEL TREE

It's Angel Tree time! Let's assist The Salvation Army in bringing some joy to children in our area during this Christmas season. Tags will be available on trees both upstairs and downstairs, starting November 8th. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You can purchase the gift listed (or something similar) and then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. Additional gifts can be purchased, if desired. Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 7th. There are also envelopes hanging on the trees to donate cash or check (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place your envelope in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, call the church office or Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

In anticipation of the upcoming Holiday Season, we are planning to give ham dinners to residents of the Towers. The hams have already been donated. We are hoping to include all of the sides and are asking for donations of : canned potatoes (sliced), canned green beans and canned carrots. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, 2026, following the 10am worship service.

We look forward to your participation!

Melissa plans to be on vacation the weeks of Christmas and the New Year. The Church Office will be closed. Bulletins for the holidays and the two Sundays after Christmas will be printed ahead of time. If there are any announcements you need in the holiday or post-holiday bulletins, please get them to the office as soon as possible (email is best). The most current prayer list/s will be included at the time of printing. We will put together a final announcement/prayer page on the 18th of December to supplement the already printed bulletins. If you have any announcements or prayers after Dec.18th, please let Pastor know so he can add them to be announced verbally. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Melissa by phone or email.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Women's Group: Wednesday, December 3 from 6-9pm (Fellowship Hall)
Garden Club: Wednesday December 10, from 5-9pm (Fellowship Hall)
LYMA Sponsored: Wednesday, December 10, from 6-10pm (Skoob's)
Youth Party: Sunday, December 14 from 4-7pm

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

St. John's Elma & Lancaster Women Fellowship & Christmas Gift Exchange will be on Wednesday 12/03/2025 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lancaster. All women are welcome to join us for fellowship, fun, and Christmas cheer. Please extend the invitation to your family and friends as well.

We will have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 pm followed by the crazy gift exchange. We ask you bring a \$10 wrapped/bagged gift for the exchange, which involves lots of laughs as ladies either select an unopened gift or choose to "steal" one already open.

If you can please bring a dish to pass for dinner; only if you want to. It can be a main dish, side dish or dessert; whatever you decide I am sure we will all be well fed. Coffee and punch will be provided. A dish to pass is appreciated but not required; we want you to join us.

The same goes if you just want to join for dinner and fellowship and be an observer for the gift exchange; you are welcome as well. Plenty of fellowship and Christmas cheer to go around.

Sign-up sheets will be available at both churches so we can have the fellowship hall all set up. The deadline to sign up is Sunday 11/30/2025; but if you forget, please come anyway, we will make it work

Any questions please contact Kathy Snyder @ 716-583-1061, and we look forward to some Christmas fellowship.



ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE

Arrangements for the altar are \$30 (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

December 7, 14, 21, 28

January 4, 11, 18, 25



PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:

Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer,
Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap,
Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne,
Bob Valois, Connie, Amanda Keneston
and her daughters, Meredith, Michael
Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul
Rudz, Jon Kuwik, Krystle Dennis, Pat
Spanitz, Carl M., and the family &
friends of Arno Konstabel,





HAPPY Birthday

ALEXANDER ORBAN, 12-01

MADelyn REFERMAT, 12-01

SHIRLEY KLOC, 12-02

MIRANDA HARDY, 12-02

JOSHUA HOFFMAN, 12-02

CECELIA STRANC, 12-02

MARIAH KERWIN, 12-03

CAYLEIGH SCIA, 12-03

THOMAS FROST, 12-04

ELIZABETH ANDREWS, 12-04

BREANNA ALDINGER, 12-05

CAROL GRAHAM, 12-05

JAIME NANTKA, 12-05

ELLA FECHER, 12-06

SARAH BECKMAN, 12-07

CRAIG LINDAUER, 12-08

GABRIELLA FRONCZAK, 12-08

CAROL SCHWERTZ, 12-08

LINDA MARSHMAN, 12-09

BRYAN HAUSER, 12-09

ARIANNA GREINER, 12-10

STEVEN KEMNA, 12-11

ADRIAN WOJTUSIAK, 12-11

ANNA MAKI, 12-12

JOHN SCARAFIA, 12-12

JOY LEE, 12-14

ARLENE ARTH, 12-15

KENNADIE PRESS, 12-15

SHARRON KRYMAN, 12-16

KATRINA GUARINO, 12-16

LINH THI YARRINGTON, 12-17

LUCILLE KRUPA, 12-19

LONDON BUSH, 12-20

STACEY FRIEND, 12-20

BEVERLY HESS, 12-21

ARDEN KRUGER, 12-21

AMY PETRUNYAK, 12-21

MASON KRUGER, 12-21

GERALD LANDAHL, 12-23

GREGORY WILDRIDGE, 12-24

MARY JO DONHAUSER, 12-25

KEVIN JACOBS, 12-28

DIANE THORNTON, 12-29

RYAN McHALE, 12-29

MARK ANDREWS, 12-29

OLIVIA FRITZEN, 12-30

KARRIANNE HELWIG, 12-31

DAVID NESTER, 12-31



**'TIS THE
SEASON**

Salvation Army

Angel Tree

**November 8th
thru December 7th**



Women's Christmas Fellowship

Wednesday December 3rd. @ 6-9pm

Fellowship: All Are Welcome!

Pot Luck: Bring a Dish to Share

Gift Exchange: Bring a Wrapped \$10 Gift

St. John's Lancaster 55 Pleasant Ave.

716-683-8972





LYMA CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH



6PM COCKTAILS * 7PM

@ **Skoob's Village Grille**
50 Central Ave,



\$30 PER PERSON - ALL ARE WELCOME!

CONTACT GARY RUDZ 716-829-9618



Holiday Schedule

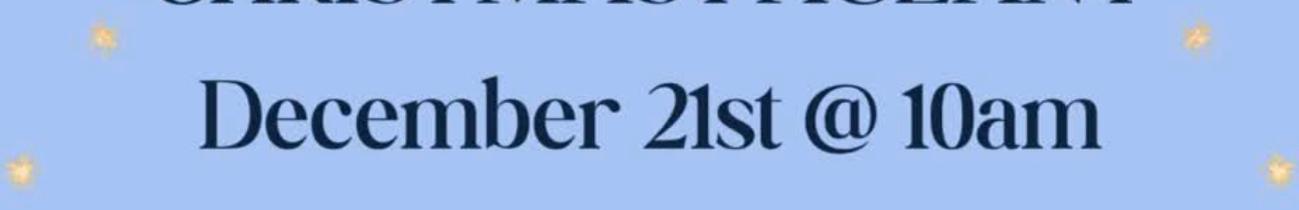


BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 20th @ 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 21st @ 10am





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

Sam Gierlinger

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Jamie Kloc

Marjorie Kruger

Jeff Miller

Rich Rice

Paul Rudz

Kelly Sieracki

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named

*Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace*



Isaiah 9:6



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
55 PLEASANT AVE
LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



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@stjohnslancaster



*Merry
Christmas*

