

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church Lancaster



ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH - LANCASTER, NY
Churches Granted 1894

December Newsletter



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Good News

Rev. Jamie Retallack 848-9683

December 2019

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.

Table of Contents

Pastor's Message 3-5

Prayer List 6

Mission Message 7-8

Schedule/

Calendar 9-10

Announcements 11-20

Birthdays/ Anns. 21-22

Yellow Pages 23

Worship Times

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 9am (Sun. School 9am)

Sunday 10:30am

Office Hours

9:00am-2:00pm

Mon-Thurs

683-8972

stjohnslancater55@gmail.com



Most movies, books, tv shows, plays or any other fiction has the same basic structure,. First the characters and setting are established, then some sort of conflict enters the story. The stakes and details of that conflict are built up until it seems like things are at their most dire point. Then there is some sort of climax and resolution of the conflict. Finally the story wraps up following the resolution of the climax. Think of any story and its likely that you can think of how it followed that structure. As an example I'll use something that is beloved by most, the Peanut's Christmas special. The show starts of by establishing the basic characters of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy and the rest. Then it sets up the conflict, they have to put on a Christmas pageant and they have different ideas of how to do so. This continues to escalate throughout the show with pink trees, commercialism, musical numbers and so on, each making the production more of a spectacle and less of a Christmas pageant. The climax is resolved (in everyone's favorite scene) when Linus tells the Christmas story and reminds everyone what Christmas is all about. The spectacle fades away and they all join in singing, united by that Christmas message. Then the story quickly wraps up and the

credits roll. This sort of structure can be used to look at non-fiction events as well. Historical documentaries and books regularly use this structure to talk about everything from the Civil War to the Salem witch trials. Indeed we can even use this structure to help us understand the creation and salvation story. Perhaps the reason this story structure is so intrinsic to us is because it is God's story.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and of course people. It was Good, the order of God's world was perfect. Then Humans introduces the conflict, they introduced Sin. This conflict continued to ebb and flow through history. God would give the 10 commandments, he'd send prophets, leaders, judges and Kings. God would forgive, and the people would again fall away from God's will. Each time the people drifted away from God things would get bad. They suffered civil war, they were conquered, they were occupied and eventually they'd be freed and the cycle would continue. God's people were simply unable to live without sin, and sin inevitably leads to destruction. It was at this time when things were their darkest, Rome having occupied Israel, that the climax occurs. Jesus, the son of God is born into this world. His teachings and life change those around him in deep and profound ways. He is eventually

captured, tried and executed only to rise three days later. In doing so he over comes the power of sin and death. No longer is our salvation based on what we can do but it is based on what Jesus already has done. That means that you and I are already saved by the Grace of God. In other words we are living in the epilogue of the story. Nothing we do can bring about the salvation that comes from God, because Jesus already has.

There is a freedom in that realization. Having been saved by God we are free to live our lives not as people who are looking to earn salvation but as people who are saved. We we working towards salvation they would always be in a way self centered, looking to earn our reward. But freed by God our actions can be truly selfless and thus more inline with God's will. We are free to care for others and love our neighbor for no reason other than its good, and right.

Each Advent we prepare to hear this story anew. To see with new eyes what God has done and what God continues to do. May we enter advent as people who are free to live as people who have been changed by the salvation story.

Peace,

Jamie



Prayer List

Known to be hospitalized or in need of prayers

Ian Nowicki

Robert Scheifla

Jean Suchert

Andrew Baird

Tyler Stockman

George B. Wildridge Jr.

Susan Ferioli

Don Spanitz

Allen Quillen

Tom Hess

Mission Message

Mission Support

This is the season of pledge cards and annual budgets, so a review of Mission Support seems appropriate.

Through God's grace, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. By sharing your God-given time, talents, and financial resources with your church, you are participating in God's work in your community and around the world.

YOUR CONGREGATION: when you make a financial gift to your congregation, the congregation's council stewards those funds to support the work of your congregation. In your annual budget, a portion of your offering is designated to be shared with the Upstate New York Synod. This is called Mission Support. If you do not see a line item in your congregation's budget called Mission Support, ask why not.

YOUR SYNOD: All the congregations' Mission Support is stewarded by Bishop Macholz and the synod leaders to support the work of the synod. Things like nurturing congregations and rostered leaders, camps, colleges, seminaries. Synods designate a percentage of the Mission Support funds to be sent to the churchwide organization, usually 40-50%.

CHURCHWIDE: Mission Support dollars are used to respond to local and worldwide ministry opportunities, like new & renewing congregations, chaplaincy, advocacy, multicultural ministries, missionaries, hunger and disaster programs.

Watch a short video to learn more. Go to Youtube search, and type in "Where does your offering go?"

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

December Schedule

DATE	DEACON	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ALTAR GUILD
				Cheryl Helwig Kathy Snyder
12/1	Sam Miller/ Sam Miller	Nicholas Jacobs/ Michael Sheehan	Nicholas Reif/ Grace Sheehan	
				Amy Petrunyak Karen Freund
12/8	Kathy Konstabel/ Kathy Snyder	Aiden Carney/ Kayla Traina	Miia Dembski/ Joshua Traina	
				Gerry Nowicki RaeAnn Jakubowski
12/15	Sam Miller/ Sharon Keller	Corrine Bartos/ Alex Keiner	Regina Cinotti/ Landyn Rogacki	
				Sharon Walker Carol Graham
12/22	RaeAnn Jakubowski/ Sam Miller	Grace Sheehan/ Samantha Gierlinger	Michael Sheehan/ Nicholas Reif	
				Cheryl Helwig Kathy Snyder
12/29	Kathy Konstabel/ Kathy Snyder	Miia Dembski/ Joshua Traina	Aiden Carney/ Nicholas Jacobs	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:00 AM Joysingers Rehearsal 10:30 AM Communion Service-First Communion	2 5:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting	3 9:30 AM Quilters	4 10:30 AM Advent Bible Study	5 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Book Club 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 30864 7:30 PM Choir	6	7 5:30 PM Communion Service
8 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Joysingers Rehearsal 10:30 AM Communion Service 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	9 7:00 PM WELCA Christmas Party	10 9:30 AM Quilters	11 10:30 AM Advent Bible Study 6:00 PM LYMA Christmas Party	12 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	13	14 5:30 PM Communion Service
15 <i>Good News Articles Due</i> 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:00 AM Joysingers Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM Youth and Family Christmas Caroling	16 6:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting	17 9:30 AM Quilters	18 10:30 AM Advent Bible Study	19 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 30864 7:30 PM Choir	20 Senior High Christmas Party	21 5:30 PM Blue Christmas Service
22 Sunday School Pageant 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Joysingers Rehearsal 10:30 AM Communion Service 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	23	24 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25	26 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	27	28 5:30 PM Communion Service
29 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:30 AM Communion Service	30	31 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Council Meeting	1	2 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	3	4 5:30 PM Communion Service

Announcements

and reminders

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group is always looking for new members, and is also in need of donations of baby yarn. Check the church calendar for our meeting dates!

November 3rd, January 5th, March 1st, May 3rd

Quilters meet every Tuesday at 9:30am. New members always welcome-no experience needed!

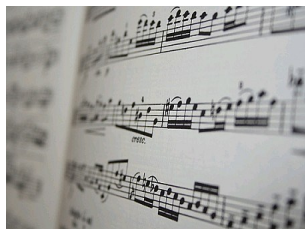
Donations are also graciously accepted! New members are always welcome to join-no experience needed, and donations are graciously accepted. Quilts made benefit the Lutheran World



Lutheran World Relief

JOYSINGERS have begun rehearsals- we welcome all interested singers ages 3 and up. This group is open to individuals and families who would like to help us sing praises to the Lord. We rehearse most Sundays from 10:00-10:30am and we sing in church at either 9 or 10:30 about once a month from October to May. Come when you can, we love to see new faces.

Do you love music?! Rehearsals for the St. John's



Choirs have started up again! Every Thursday we will have 2 rehearsals: 6:30pm for Handbell Choir, 7:30pm for Choir. All are welcome! Even if you haven't been a part of these groups in the past everyone, no matter what musical experience, are welcome to give it a try!

Save Around Coupon Book If you purchase a 2020 Book you will receive a 2019 Book FREE with over \$1,000 in savings! This is a fundraiser for the International Police Association, please contact Greg Wildridge (863-6763) if interested in purchasing.

2019 Book good until 12/31/2019

2020 Book good until 12/31/2020

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner was a success! We served almost 200 dinners and enjoyed being in community with each other! Thank you to all who attended and those who contributed their time and efforts!

The Arc Erie County Preschool serves children ages 3 to 6 years old with developmental disabilities. Part of their care is providing children with spare clothing, but they are running out! They are looking for donations of gently used clothing, especially pants, underwear, socks and sneakers. Donations can be left in the church office.

Christmas Services!

Saturday December 21st @ 5:30pm– Blue Christmas

Tuesday December 24th @ 7:00pm– Christmas Eve

Tuesday December 24th @ 11:00pm– Christmas Eve

During **Advent Pastor will be leading a Bible study** on Wednesday morning at 10:30 in the memorial lounge.. We will prepare for the coming of Christ by looking at the beginning of three of the Gospels, Matthew, Luke and John. By looking at how the Gospels “introduced” us to Jesus we can gain new perspective on how the early followers saw Jesus and how we can better understand him today. We hope to see you there.

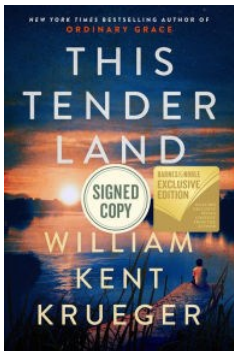


CALLING FOR ST. JOHN'S ANGELS

Each year The Salvation Army serves thousands of families during the holiday season. There are families in Western New York that need our hands, hearts, prayers and, of course, dollars to bring them some joy during this season. This will be the 23rd year that St. John's will participate in the Angel Tree gift giving program.

Angel Tree tags will be available on the trees beginning on Saturday, November 16th. If you are able, please pick out a tag for a child or elderly individual and purchase a gift that is within your means. Gifts listed on the tag are suggestions. If you can't find the exact gift, purchase a similar item or an age appropriate gift of your choice. Feel free to buddy up with other members of the congregation to purchase a high cost item. For those who would prefer to make a monetary donation, envelopes will be hanging on the tree. Please make checks out to the "Salvation Army" and place your envelope in the offering plate or return to the church office. When you choose a tag or an envelope from the tree, replace it with a star. All gifts must be at church by Sunday, Dec. 8th. **Please do not wrap your gift in Christmas paper! Instead, place your gift in a Christmas gift bag and tape the tag on the side of the bag before placing it under the tree.** With your love and support St. John's will have another successful year of giving!

Call Carol Schwertz at 668-4683 if you have any questions.

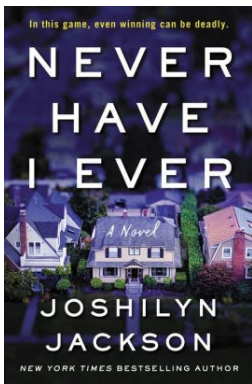


Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM to discuss William Kent Krueger's novel, **THIS TENDER LAND**.

Set in Minnesota in 1932—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, **THIS TENDER LAND** is an en-thralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

Read this novel about a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression...then come and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!



Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, February 27th at 7:00 PM to discuss Joshilyn Jackson's book, **NEVER HAVE I EVER**, a twisting novel of domestic suspense in which a group of women play a harmless drinking game that escalates into a war of dark pasts.

In this game, even winning can be deadly...

Amy Whey is proud of her ordinary life and the simple pleasures that come with it—teaching diving lessons, baking cookies for new neighbors, helping her best friend, Charlotte, run their local book club. Her greatest joy is her family: her devoted professor husband, her spirited fifteen-year-old stepdaughter, her adorable infant son. And, of course, the steadfast and supportive Charlotte. But Amy's sweet, uncomplicated life begins to unravel when the mysterious and alluring Angelica Roux arrives on her doorstep one book club night.

Sultry and magnetic, Roux beguiles the group with her feral charm. She keeps the wine flowing and lures them into a game of spilling secrets. Everyone thinks it's naughty, harmless fun. Only Amy knows better. Something wicked has come her way—a she-devil in a pricey red sports car who seems to know the terrible truth about who she is and what she once did.

When they're alone, Roux tells her that if she doesn't give her what she asks for, what she deserves, she's going to make Amy pay for her sins. One way or another.

To protect herself and her family and save the life she's built, Amy must beat the devil at her own clever game, matching wits with Roux in an escalating war of hidden pasts and unearthed secrets. Amy knows the consequences if she can't beat Roux. What terrifies her is everything she could lose if she wins.

Read this diabolically entertaining tale of betrayal, deception, temptation, and love filled with dark twists leavened by Joshilyn Jackson's trademark humor, **NEVER HAVE I EVER** explores what happens when the transgressions of our past come back with a vengeance.....then come and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!



SAVE THE DATE!

*175th
Anniversary
Celebration
Dinner*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH @ 6:00PM

RIPA'S RESTAURANT

4218 WALDEN AVE, LANCASTER, NY 14086

Youth Group!

Attention youth and parents!!

**** Date Change! December 15th** 2-8pm Youth and Family Caroling following Confirmation. Dinner served after caroling and then the Youth Christmas Party will start.

December 20th Organic Youth Sr. High Christmas Party, details to come. (Open to 9th-12th grades)

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group here at St. John's, please contact

Kelly Sieracki at 716-868-3023.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place
December 22nd.

Council Corner

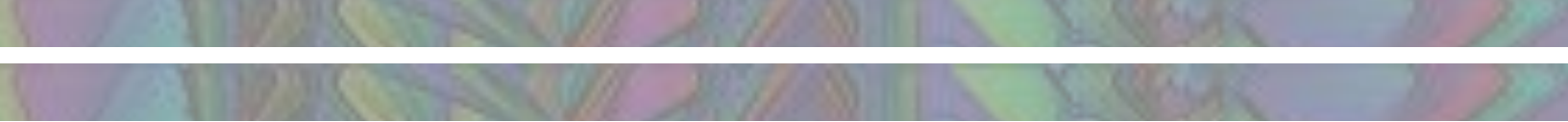
A message from Council members

Hello and welcome to Council Corner,

As we settle into the fall months and routines and begin to prepare for another Buffalo winter we continue to make needed updates to the church, parsonage and Pleasant Ave house. We are happy to share with the congregation that we have a full time resident living in our Pleasant Avenue house.

We are pleased to welcome Miranda and Jordan Hammer and their daughter Nora. Miranda is currently a seminary student and intern at Abiding Savior under the guidance of Rev. John Scarafia. Miranda is due to graduate from seminary in May 2019. Following her graduation she will enter the call process here in the WNY area. It is a wonderful opportunity for St. Johns to share the Pleasant Ave. house with a soon to be Pastor as well as to make use of this wonderful resource right in our own frontyard!

Our annual election day spaghetti dinner was held on November 5th with another great turnout of almost 200 dinners served. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with everything from donating pies to set-up and clean-up! Our election day dinner continues to be a wonderful way to share fellowship with others as well as meet new people from our community.



The final celebratory event for our 175th anniversary will be held on Friday January 24th, 2020 at Ripa's restaurant beginning at 6:00 pm. The committee and council have many exciting things planned for the evening and we hope you will mark your calendar and join in the fun and festive celebration!.

Lastly, the entire Council would like to take this opportunity to wish our member's a joyous Christmas season!

See you all in 2020,
Congregation Council

Happy birthday

Time to celebrate



Alexander Orban 12/1	Bryan Hauser 12/9	London Bush 12/20	Jennifer Murtha 12/29
Miranda Hardy 12/2	Arianna Greiner 12/10	Stacey Friend 12/20	Douglas Peita 12/29
Joshua Hoffman 12/2	Steven Kemna 12/11	Tiffany Suarez 12/20	Joshua Scott 12/29
Shirley Kloc 12/2	Laurie Mangold 12/11	Anthony Cervi 12/21	Diane Thornton 12/29
Cecelia Stranc 12/2	Robert Rzeznik 12/11	Beverly Hess 12/21	Olivia Fritzen 12/30
Mariah Kerwin 12/3	Adrian Wojtusiak 12/11	Arden Kruger 12/21	Karrienne Helwig 12/31
Cayleigh Scia 12/3	Anna Maki 12/12	Mason Kruger 12/21	David Nester 12/31
Elizabeth Andrews 12/4	John Scarafia Jr. 12/12	Amy Petrunyak 12/21	
Thomas Frost 12/4	Joy Lee 12/14	Gerald Landahl 12/23	
Alan Schrutt 12/4	Arlene Arth 12/15	Marjorie Murphy 12/24	
Breanna Aldinger 12/5	Kennadie Press 12/15	Sebastian Perna 12/24	
Carol Graham 12/5	Timothy Rogacki 12/15	Wyatt Preusch 12/24	
Jaime Nantka 12/5	Katrina Gurino 12/16	Gregory Wildridge 12/24	
Ella Fecher 12/6	Sharron Kryman 12/16	Mary Donhauser 12/25	
Rachel Tomaszewski 12/6	Taylor Maki 12/16	Theresa Crisp 12/26	
Jonathan VanNortwick 12/6	Linh Thi Yarrington 12/17	Gianna Krathaus 12/27	
Sarah Beckman 12/7	Robert Bashor 12/18	Elliot Pater 12/27	
Jacob DeWald 12/7	Thomas Morse III 12/18	Alice Sharpe 12/27	
Gabriella Fronczak 12/8	Steve Reiner 12/18	Kevin Jacobs 12/28	
Craig Lindauer 12/8	Holly Volino 12/18	Patricia Kostecky 12/28	
Kevin Murtha 12/8	Lucille Krupa 12/19	Mark Andrews 12/29	
Carol Schwertz 12/8		Ryan McHale 12/29	

Anniversaries

Congrats to another year!

JAMES & TRACIE TOMCZYK 12/4

KENNETH, III & ANNE REITMEIER III 12/5

DAVID & CYNTHIA SMITH 12/7

GREGORY & KATHRYN WILDRIDGE 12/18

DAVID & MARGARET NESTER 12/22

JOHN & AMY PETRUNYAK 12/28

Yellow Pages

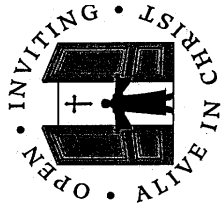
and staff

Yellow Pages

Bunny Boteler Bunny's Motor Sports (small engine repair)	684-7650
Julie Buccieri Lancaster Lady Monsters (youth lacrosse league)	807-5732
Mike Durkin HDE Electric	674-7259
Darlene Kramer Cleaning & Laundry, Errands	937-4179
David Nester Handyman	681-9716
Rachel Poss Partylite Candles & Gifts/Parties	491-4393
Christine Ruffner Usborne Children's Educational Books	656-2056
Michael Sheehan Computer & Software Sales	937-9815
Tim Stranc (TSAir) Heating & Air-Conditioning	684-9854
Brian Makey Thrivent Financial Representative	714-9852
Brian.makey@thrivent.com	
Anthony Santucci Walden Auto Sales & Service	683-2901

Staff Members

Rev. Jamie Retallack Pastor	848-9683
Rev. John Swanson Pastor Emeritus	
Rev. John Scarafia Pastor Emeritus	
Dr. Vicky Chang Director of Music	
Donna McGrew Financial Secretary	
Abby Mandris Church Secretary	860-7881



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue

Lancaster, NY 14086-2173

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