

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Prelude
The Greetings

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

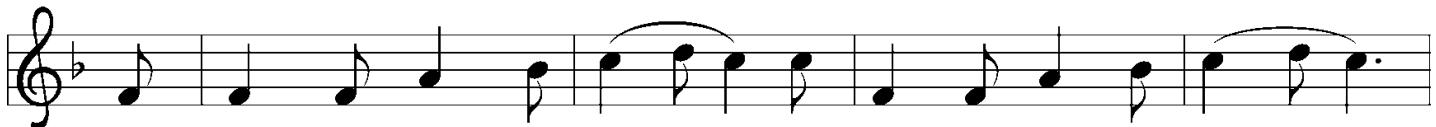
Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

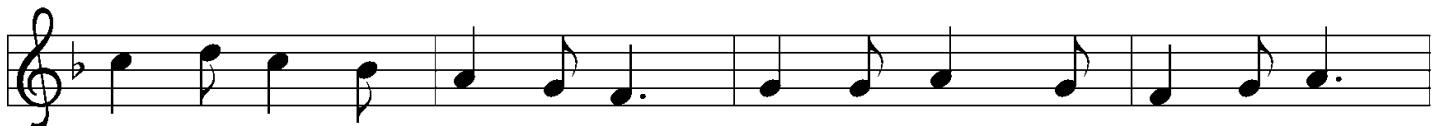
Opening Hymn

LBW 55

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say:
 now ye hear of end - less bliss:
 now ye need not fear the grave;

Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

The Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and he became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

Psalm 148
(*Read Responsively*)

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!**

The Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

Matthew 2:13-23

Glory to you, O God.

Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.

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

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack



Hymn of the Day

LBW 40

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



Prayers of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth,
let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (We pray especially for 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, and Carl M.) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (especially). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; 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

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; 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 Offering

The Offering 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
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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The Offertory Prayer

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

Musical notation for the Sanctus hymn, showing four staves of music with corresponding lyrics.

C 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



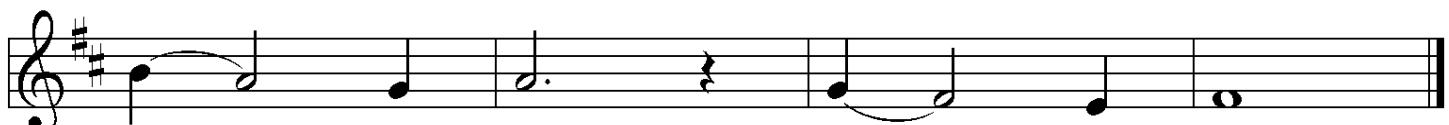
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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
LBW 212, WOV 709

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

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Sending Hymn

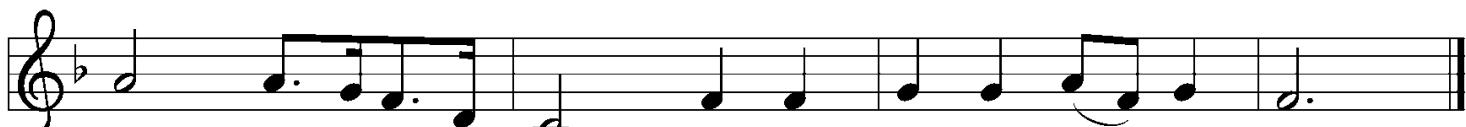
LBW 70

Go Tell it on the Mountain

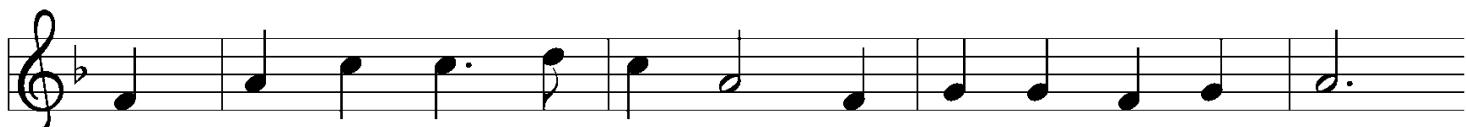
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, over the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



The Sending

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
 Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
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:

The Church Office is closed from December 22 - January 4.

It will reopen on Monday, January 5th **@ 10 am.**

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

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!



Directory Updates: If you have not yet, please help us by finding your entry on the printed pages (either upstairs in the Narthex, or downstairs in the Chapel), and making corrections as necessary. Thank you!

Altar Guild: Kelly Sieracki & Corinne Rudz

Deacon: Kathy Snyder

Ushers: Janet Sincebaugh & Rick Tomaszewski

Available Altar Flower Dates:

Jan 4, 11, 18, 25

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, Bob Valois, Connie, Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, Michael Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul Rudz, Jon Kuwik, Krystle Dennis, Pat Spanitz, and Carl M.

Please join us for “**The Un- Hanging of the Greens,**”

AKA un-decorating the church after Christmas, on

Sun. 1/4 after 10 am service. Many hands make light work.

See Kathy Snyder with any questions.

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!

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Confirmation Class	11:15am	

Monday, December 29, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Closed		
Guiding Eyes	4:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Closed		
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Closed		

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Closed		

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Undecorate Church	11:15am	



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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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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