

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

OCTOBER 2026



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



Another Bills season is upon us and so far the Bills are 3-0. It sure has been nice having them be good for the past few years. We have come to expect a playoff appearance each year. In fact, we have won a playoff game every year for the past 6 years. That's the longest current streak in the NFL. The elephant in the room is that although we sure have won a lot, we have never won the big one. We've never won the super bowl. We have come close, making it to the final game four times in a row, but we fell short every time. Despite all of those disappointments, each year I still enter the new season with hope and anticipation. For a while the hope was just to win more than they lost. Now that they have been winning, the hope is that they finally make it to the mountain top and win it all. In my experience, many people are afraid to say it out loud, afraid to say "I think this is the year we are going to win it all." Maybe people are afraid of jinxing it, or maybe they are afraid to say their hope out loud because they are worried about another disappointment, worried that if they get their hopes up and it all falls apart again it will be more devastating. We can be afraid to express our hopes because what if the thing we hope to happen does not meet our expectations.

If we can struggle to express our hopes regarding a silly game, what about our hopes regarding things that are more important. Much of our faith is built on hopes and expectations. Expectations that God is with us always, hopes about the kingdom of God. In fact, Hebrews defines faith in these terms:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. (Hebrews 11: 1-3)

The key words in this definition are assurance and conviction. We are assured and convinced that the promises of God are true. We call that assurance faith and our faith gives us the courage to proclaim our hopes in God. Hebrews goes on to reference Abraham, Moses and other pillars of the faith. Talking about how their conviction in the unseen led them to achieve great things in God's name. Then Hebrews continues:



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONT'D



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

We are called to be inspired by those who have gone before us to look to Jesus and to “run the race that is set before us”. To live our lives in the hope and confidence we have in God. To not be afraid to live in full confidence of the hopes and expectations we have in God. To not sit idly by afraid that our hope will fail but to boldly proclaim the promises in God. Hope is a powerful thing and in God it is made complete. Live in hope.

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, October 28th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, DEAR EDWARD, by Ann Napolitano.

What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live?

One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured veteran returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman

running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor.

Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a part of himself has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all of his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

Read this coming of age story, a multidimensional portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters, and a breathtaking illustration of all the ways a broken heart learns to love again; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/dear-edward-ann-napolitano/1146482286?ean=9781984854803>



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Bible Study 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am Choir Practice	28 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am-2:00pm Poppi's Pantry 5:00pm-7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	29 9:30am-1:30pm Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	30 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	1 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	2	3 5:30pm In Person Service
4 9:00am Bible Study 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am Choir Practice	5 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours	6 9:30am-1:30pm Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	7 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours	8 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	9	10 5:30pm In Person Service
11 9:00am Bible Study 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am Choir Practice 11:30am Property & Grounds	12 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am-2:00pm Poppi's Pantry 5:00pm-7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	13 9:30am-1:30pm Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	14 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 6:00pm Lancaster Garden Club 7:00pm LYMA Mtg.	15 Good News Articles Due 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	16	17 12:30pm Congregational Care Meals 5:30pm In Person Service
18 9:00am Bible Study 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am-12:30pm Confirmation Class 11:05am Choir Practice	19 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours	20 9:30am-1:30pm Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	21 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours	22 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	23 6:30pm B'I'N'G'O Night	24 5:30pm In Person Service
25 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am-12:00pm Chowderfest 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/Confirmations 11:05am Choir Practice 4:00pm-6:00pm Trunk or Treat 6:30pm-8:00pm YOUTH - Clean-Up & Party	26 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am-2:00pm Poppi's Pantry 5:00pm-7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	27 9:30am-1:30pm Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	28 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	29 10:00am-3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	30	31 10:00am-1:00pm YOUTH: Escape Room 5:30pm In Person Service

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

UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Snyder
October 4, 2026

Amy & John
Petranyak
October 11, 2026

RaeAnn Jakubowski
Corinne Rudz
October 18, 2026

Sharon Walker
Carol Graham
October 25, 2026

USHERS

10/4/2026
Rich Rice
Daniel Rice

10/11/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Rick Tomaszewski

10/18/2026
Linda Costa
Kathy Burr

10/25/2026
Greg Wildridge
Rich Rice

DEACONS

10/4/2026
RaeAnn
Jakubowski

10/11/2026
Kathy Snyder

10/18/2026
Kathy Konstabel

10/25/2026
RaeAnn
Jakubowski

WEEKLY GROUPS / MEETINGS

Bible Study: Sundays @ 9am
Joysingers: Sundays @ 9:30am
Worship: Sundays @ 10am
Confirmation: Scheduled Sundays @ 11am
Choir: Sundays @ 11:05am
Food Pantry: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 11am
Guiding Eyes: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 5pm
Girl Scouts: Alternate Mondays @ 6pm
Quilters: Tuesdays @ 9:30am
NA: Tuesdays @ 7pm
Bible Study: Thursdays @ 1pm
Handbell: Thursdays @ 6:30pm
Worship: Saturdays @ 5:30pm

EVENTS / MEETINGS

Property & Grounds: 10/11 @ 11:15am
Women's Lunch: 10/14 @ 11:30am
Garden Club: 10/14 @ 6pm
LYMA Meeting: 10/14 @ 7pm
Cong. Care Meals: 10/17 @ 12:30pm
Confirmation Class: 10/18 @ 11am
Coffee Hour: 10/18 @ 11am
BINGO: 10/23 @ 6:30pm
Chowderfest: 10/25 @ 9am
Confirmations: 10/25 @ 10am
Trunk-or-Treat: 10/25 @ 4pm
YOUTH - Party: 10/25 @ 6:30pm
Book Club: 10/28 @ 2:30pm
Council Meeting: 10/28 @ 7pm
YOUTH: Escape Rm: 10am-1pm



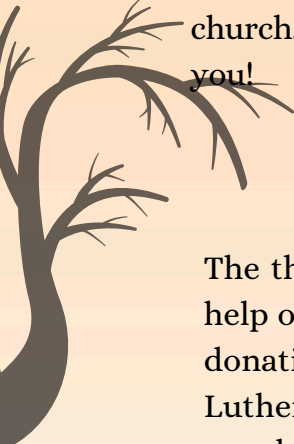
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY PROMISE – DONATIONS NEEDED



Family Promise of WNY is an organization that works to prevent and end homelessness for families with children. St. John's will be collecting household items for their housewarming starter kit. Possible donations include any new or very gently used item that would be useful in an apartment. There are lists of suggestions at church. We hope to give Family Promise a wide variety of items! Donations can be brought in until October 18th and placed in the pews by the altar. Thank you!

GIFT CARDS



Your generosity is very much appreciated! Gift cards from Amazon and Walmart are still needed to help provide for Paul Rudz's care. Envelopes are available around the church. Feel free to include a message to Paul. Prayers are always appreciated. Thank you!

RAMP FUND

The the St John's Lutheran Young Men association is sponsoring a ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Please use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thank you very much & God Bless! LYMA

POPPI'S PANTRY

serving the congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2, is beginning to collect for Thanksgiving turkey dinners. We have plenty of vegetables and cranberries, but we need: canned yams, canned gravy, stuffing, and instant potatoes. Thank you for your continued generosity!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

The women of St. John's Lancaster & Elma would like your help to collect school supplies for The Teacher's Desk. The Teacher's Desk is a store located at 22 Northampton Street Buffalo, NY 14209 where teachers shop free for school supplies, books, and teacher resources for students in 250 WNY schools in need.

List of supplies:

Tissues (full size boxes or small packs)
Pens, pencils, crayons, colored markers, highlighters
Elmer's Glue & glue sticks
Spiral notebooks (8 ½ X 11 and smaller size)
Hand sanitizer

Personal care items:

Combs, individually packed shampoo/creme rinse,
toothbrush, and travel size toothpaste

Boxes/baskets will be available at church to drop off any supplies collected. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Snyder. We will be collecting over the next several weeks and appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

COUNCIL VACANCIES

There will be (3) vacancies on church Council at the end of this year and we are looking for members of the congregation to fill those positions. Members of the congregation are always welcome to attend Council meetings the last Tuesday of every month, and anyone interested in serving on Council may find it beneficial to attend a meeting. If you are interested, contact Pastor or Janet Sincebaugh.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER 25TH FROM 4-6PM

Led By St. John's Youth

Decorate Your Car 3-4pm

Hand Out Treats 4-6pm

Enjoy Treats and Games

All Are Welcome!



St. John's Lutheran in Lancaster * 55 Pleasant Ave * Kelly 716-868-3023

LYMA Chowder Fest

October 25th

9:00am 'til Sold Out



St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster

SPAGHETTI DINNER

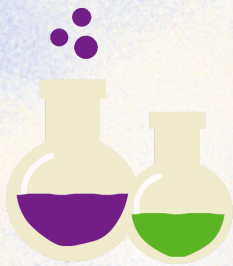
November 3rd @ 4-7pm

ELECTION DAY



DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT

St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086



ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE



Arrangements for the altar are \$40 (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

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:
Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave,
Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger,
Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz,
Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards,
Joshua B., Melvinea, Amber Burkhardt,
Loretta Battaglia, Wayne Wolf,
David Neiabala; Diane, Sandy & family;
Rosie Cline, and Marcus Moen.





ROXANN ESFORD, Oct 2
CHERYL HELWIG, Oct 3
JOSHUA RUFFNER, Oct 3
TAMMY QUILLEN, Oct 4
MATILDA MADISON, Oct 4
JESSICA NANTKA, Oct 5
MARJORIE KRUGER, Oct 5
JANET SINCEBAUGH, Oct 7
SCOTT BALCERZAK, Oct 7
PATRICK MITOLA, Oct 7
KAYLA SAULTER, Oct 7
CINDY CRAWFORD, Oct 9
BRENNA BUCCIERI, Oct 9
KARA REFERMAT, Oct 9
MIA MAKI, Oct 10
RUSSELL STRANC, Oct 12
GREGORY BUNN, Oct 12
OWEN PORTO, Oct 12
CHRISTINE MAKI, Oct 13
AARON WAWROWSKI, Oct 14
JANET POWERS, Oct 14
CONNOR KRAWCZYK, Oct 14
SUZANNE MILLER, Oct 15
HARRY BOETTCHER, Oct 16
DANA HINEMAN, Oct 16
PHILIP KLOC, Oct 16

SHARON KELLER, Oct 17
MARTIN PETERS, Oct 17
BRENDEN BURRY, Oct 18
STEVEN KERWIN, Oct 20
SHARADE ALDINGER, Oct 20
ROBBIE HENDERSHOT, Oct 21
DONNA TERRY, Oct 21
LYNN HOFFMAN, Oct 21
SUSAN THAESLER, Oct 23
FRANK MADDOCK, Oct 23
ONNOLEE ORBAN-PAULSEN, Oct 24
DANIELLA STOWBUNENKO, Oct 24
DIANA SIERACKI, Oct 24
SHANNA NOWAK, Oct 24
JACOB KLINGER, Oct 25
JENNIFER JACOBS, Oct 26
DUSTYN MAKI, Oct 26
ROBIN MITOLA, Oct 26
SHARON WALKER, Oct 26
CHRISTIAN SIERACKI, Oct 27
CHRISTOPHER KRUEGER, Oct 27
ALEX KIENER, Oct 29
COLE FRIEND, Oct 29
CYNTHIA SPETH, Oct 30
CAROL BALCERZAK, Oct 30
JOHN PETRUNYAK, Oct 30
PEGGY SUE LAYER, Oct 31



411

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
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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



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



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



Follow us on Facebook!
@stjohnslancaster



*Do not fear, for I am with you:
do not be afraid, for I am your God:
I will strengthen you: I will help you:
I will uphold you with my victorious
right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

