

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

NOVEMBER 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

Time is the most valuable resource that we have in this world. You have a limited amount, can't buy more, and you never know how much you have. It's a resource that different people utilize very differently. Some fill every moment with as many activities, events and expectations as possible. Others are content to leave their time as open as possible and figure out what to do or not do with it as they go. Some seek to cherish each moment for what it is, while others simply wait for it to pass in order to reach milestones along the way. How do you spend your time? I'm not asking what you do with your time, but rather how you manage the resource that is your time.

When we have a resource like money in a budget, we think carefully about how we will manage it, where we will spend it, where we will save, and the pace at which we will utilize it. Perhaps we can look to God for guidance about how it is we should use the resource of our time.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

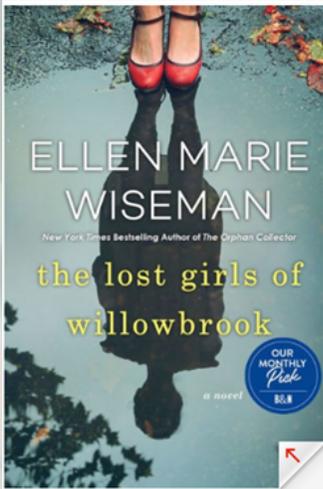
This is a reading that I'm sure you've heard before. It comes up regularly at funerals, a time when we face the finite reality of our time here on Earth and mourn. It is also the only verse I can think of that became a hit song. It was generally unaltered, set to music and released under the name "Turn, Turn, Turn". I think that says so much about how much comfort this verse can bring. A reminder that we don't control a lot about the resource that is our time, and yet it is a gift that we can use for "every purpose under heaven". We are free to focus on what we can control and use that for God's purpose. The other things that happen outside of our control we can leave in God's almighty hand.

We then should set our minds on God's purposes and use our time accordingly. We use time to help one another, love one another, care for one another, and to spread the Gospel so that people know why we love, help and care for others. In the life of a congregation, that looks like service to one another, seeking out where God is leading and supporting the life of the congregation. I invite you to assess how you are using the resource that is your time, to see if there are ways you could use some of it to join in or join in more with the ministry that is happening. I also encourage you to see if there are ways you could help create a new ministry. For everything there is a season, may this be a season for us to see where God is calling us to use our time.

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 Tuesday (note change in the day of the week), December 2nd at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **THE LOST GIRLS OF WILLOWBROOK**, by Ellen Marie Wiseman.

Sage Winters always knew her sister was a little different even though they were identical twins. They loved the same things and shared a deep understanding, but Rosemary—awake to every emotion, easily moved to joy or tears—seemed to need more protection from the world.

Six years after Rosemary's death from pneumonia, Sage, now sixteen, still misses her deeply. Their mother perished in a car crash, and Sage's stepfather, Alan, resents being burdened by a responsibility he never wanted. Yet despite living as near strangers in their Staten Island apartment, Sage is stunned to discover that Alan has kept a shocking secret: Rosemary didn't die. She was committed to Willowbrook State School and has lingered there until just a few days ago, when she went missing.

Sage knows little about Willowbrook. It's always been a place shrouded by rumor and mystery. A place local parents threaten to send misbehaving kids. With no idea what to expect, Sage secretly sets out for Willowbrook, determined to find Rosemary. What she learns, once she steps through its doors and is mistakenly believed to be her sister, will change her life in ways she never could have imagined.

Read this intense thriller mystery novel that blends fact with fiction, and transports you to the infamous Willowbrook State School on Staten Island in the 1970s; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-lost-girls-of-willowbrook-ellen-marie-wiseman/1140573026?ean=9781496715883>



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Chowderfest 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/Confirmations	27 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	28 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	29 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	30 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	31 Reformation Day	1 All Saints Day 12:30pm - 2:30pm Guiding Eyes 5:30pm In Person Service
2 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Confirmation Class	3 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	4 9:30am Quilters 4:00pm - 7:00pm Spaghetti Dinner 7:00pm NA Meeting	5 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	6 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	7	8 5:30pm In Person Service
9 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:30am Property & Grounds	10 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	11 Veterans Day 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	12 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 7:00pm Garden Club	13 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	14	15 Good News Articles Due 5:30pm In Person Service
16 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Worship & Music Committee 11:15am Confirmation Class 1:00pm Family Fun - Bills Watch Party	17 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	18 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	19 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	20 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	21	22 12:00pm - 2:00pm LYMA Luncheon 5:30pm In Person Service
23 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	24 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Chordsmen	25 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	26 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 5:30pm In Person Service
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 5:00pm - 9:00pm 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

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

UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Amy & John Petrunyak

November 2, 2025

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Timmy Gierlinger

November 9, 2025

Sharon Walker

Carol Graham

November 16, 2025

Kelly Sieracki

Corinne Rudz

November 23, 2025

Nancy & John Scarafia

November 30, 2025

DEACONS

11/2/2025

RaeAnn Jakubowski

11/9/2025

Paul Rudz

11/16/2025

Kathy Snyder

11/23/2025

RaeAnn Jakubowski

11/30/2025

Paul Rudz

USHERS

11/2/2025

Rich Rice

Rick Tomaszewski

11/9/2025

Janet Sincebaugh

Greg Wildridge

11/16/2025

Linda Costa

Rick Tomaszewski

11/23/2025

Rich Rice

Greg Wildridge

11/30/2025

Linda Costa

Janet Sincebaugh

WEEKLY GROUPS / MEETINGS

Bible Study: Sundays @ 9am

Joysingers: Sundays @ 9:30am

Worship: Sundays @ 10am

Confirmation: Alternate Sundays @ 11:15am

Food Pantry: Mondays @ 11am

Guiding Eyes: Mondays @ 4:00pm

Girl Scouts: Alternate Mondays @ 6pm

Chordsmen: Mondays @ 7:30pm

Quilters: Tuesdays @ 9:30am

NA: Tuesdays @ 7pm

Bible Study: Thursdays @ 1pm

Handbell: Thursdays @ 6:30pm

Choir: Thursdays @ 7:30pm

Worship: Saturdays @ 5:30pm

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 15 frozen turkey breasts to residents of the Towers. We are hoping to include all of the sides and are asking for donations of : instant potatoes, canned gravy, canned yams, and cranberries. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support.

SHARING CLOSET

If you are hosting an event in our Fellowship Hall, please feel free to check our sharing closet for supplies (formerly known as the room across from the kitchen, the sacred closet, or that little room at the end of the back hall)! We have plates, bowls, plastic wear, flowers for centerpieces, cups, serving dishes and so much more! If you need it, and we have it, feel free to use it! If you do need to bring supplies, feel free to leave the leftovers behind to pass on to the next person.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On the calendar for December, Save the dates for:

Women's Group: Wednesday, December 3 from 5-9pm (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



SPAGHETTI DINNER

November 4th @ 4-7 pm



Dine in or Take-out - St. John's Lancaster
55 Pleasant Avenue - (716) 683-8972

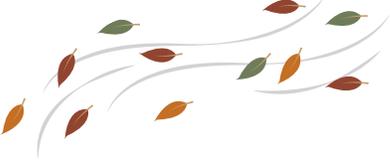


'TIS THE SEASON

Salvation Army
Angel Tree

November 8th
thru December 7th





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

November 2, 16, 23, 30

December 7, 14, 21, 28



PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:
Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer,
Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Arden
Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly
R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Faye Szuilt, Bryce
P, and the family and friends of Brian
Teagarden and Thomas



Happy Birthday!



MADELYN REFERMAT, DEC 1

ALEXANDER ORBAN, DEC 1

SHIRLEY KLOC, DEC 2

JOSHUA HOFFMAN, DEC 2

CECELIA STRANC, DEC 2

MIRANDA HARDY, DEC 2

MARIAH KERWIN, DEC 3

CAYLEIGH SCIA, DEC 3

ELIZABETH ANDREWS, DEC 4

THOMAS FROST, DEC 4

BREANNA ALDINGER, DEC 5

JAIME NANTKA, DEC 5

CAROL GRAHAM, DEC 5

ELLA FECHER, DEC 6

SARAH BECKMAN, DEC 7

CAROL SCHWERTZ, DEC 8

CRAIG LINDAUER, DEC 8

GABRIELLA FRONCZAK, DEC 8

BRYAN HAUSER, DEC 9

LINDA MARSHMAN, DEC 9

ARIANNA GREINER, DEC 10

STEVEN KEMNA, DEC 11

ADRIAN WOJTUSIAK, DEC 11

JOHN SCARAFIA, DEC 12

ANNA MAKI, DEC 12

JOY LEE, DEC 14

KENNADIE PRESS, DEC 15

ARLENE ARTH, DEC 15

SHARRON KRYMAN, DEC 16

KATRINA GUARINO, DEC 16

LINH THI YARRINGTON, DEC 17

LUCILLE KRUPA, DEC 19

STACEY FRIEND, DEC 20

LONDON BUSH, DEC 20

BEVERLY HESS, DEC 21

MASON KRUGER, DEC 21

AMY PETRUNYAK, DEC 21

ARDEN KRUGER, DEC 21

GERALD LANDAHL, DEC 23

GREGORY WILDRIDGE, DEC 24

MARY JO DONHAUSER, DEC 25

ALICE SHARPE, DEC 27

KEVIN JACOBS, DEC 28

RYAN McHALE, DEC 29

DIANE THORNTON, DEC 29

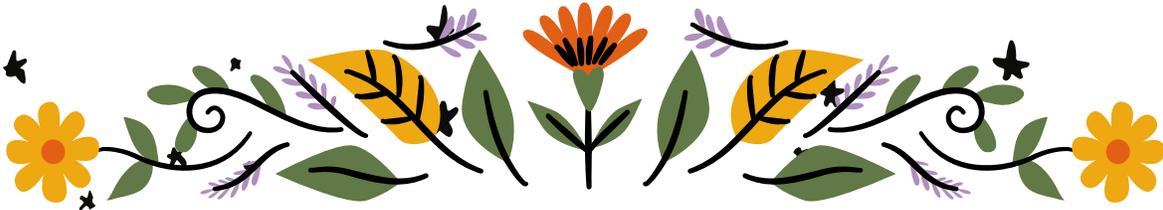
MARK ANDREWS, DEC 29

OLIVIA FRITZEN, DEC 30

KARRIANNE HELWIG, DEC 31

DAVID NESTER, DEC 31





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

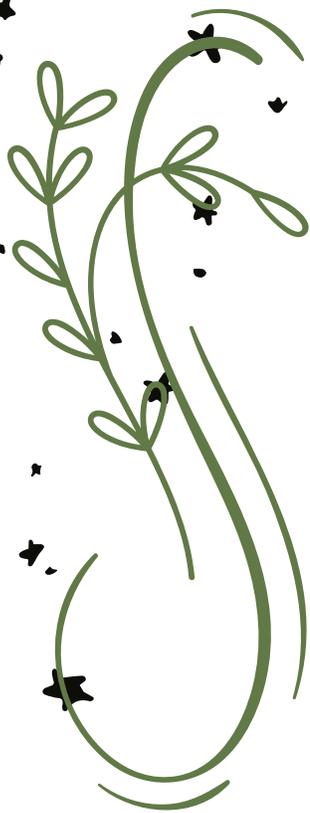
Marjorie Kruger

Jeff Miller

Rich Rice

Paul Rudz

Kelly Sieracki



HAVE A BLESSED

Thanks
GIVING





ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

55 PLEASANT AVE

LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



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@stjohnslancaster

