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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack 716-848-9683 Christ the King 24th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, November 23, 2025

The Prelude The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

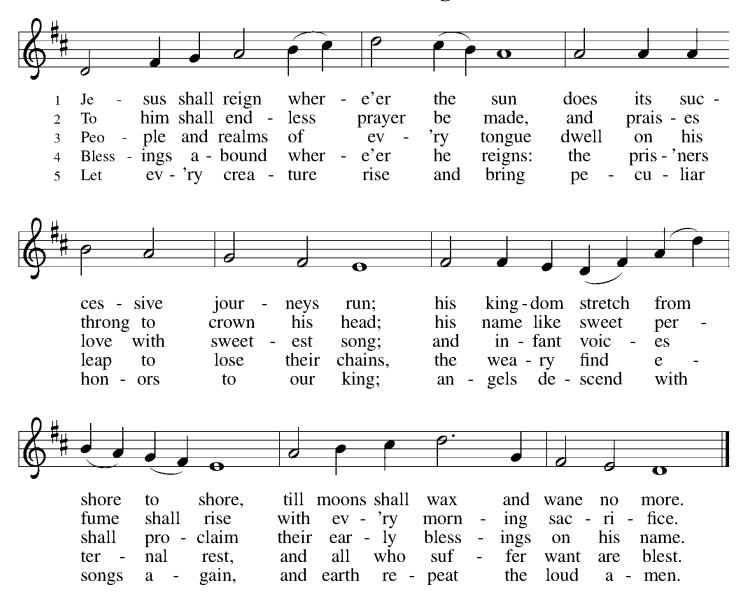
Silence for Prayer & Confession

Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

Jesus Shall Reign



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

The Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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 Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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



Psalm 46 (*Read Responsively*)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

> The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Second Reading Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Gospel Reading Luke 23:33-43 Glory to you, O God.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

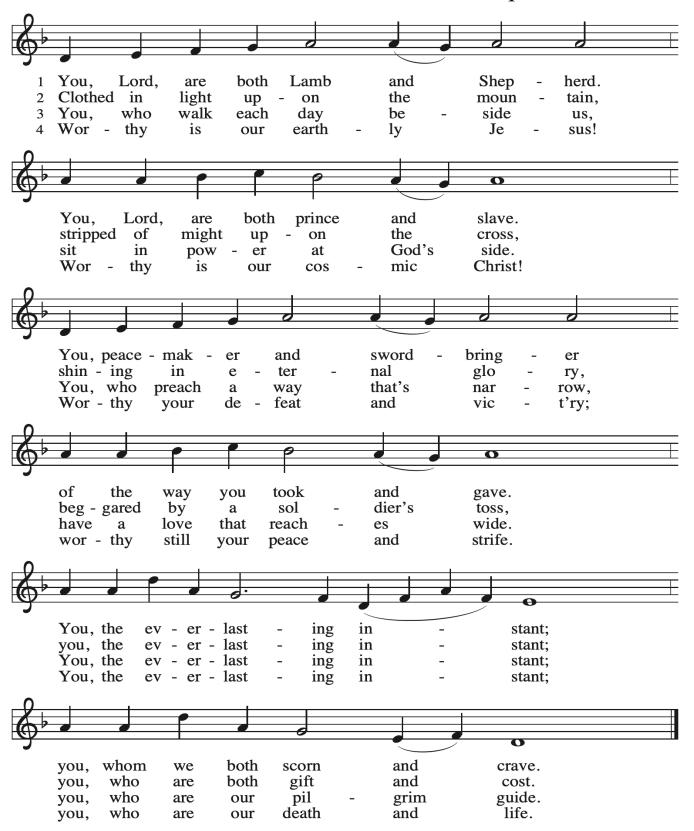
This is the Word of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

ACS 954

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick (especially 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, Bob Valois, Connie, and Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, Michael Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul Rudz, and the family and friends of David Januchowski). Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith (especially). May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

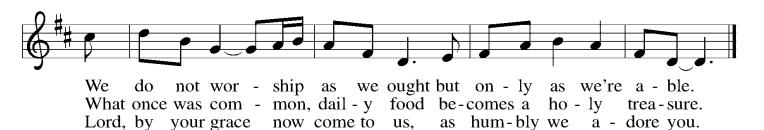
The Offering

The Offering Music

The Offertory Hymn



- Ac-cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up-on your ta-ble. The vines were plant-ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be fore 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 healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

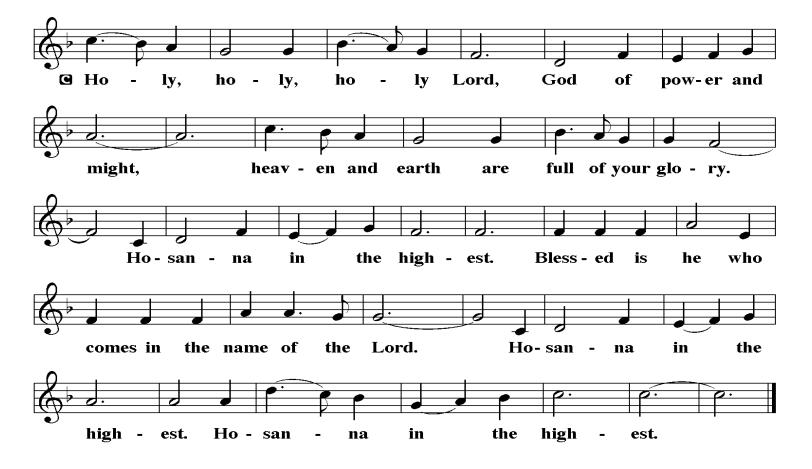
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



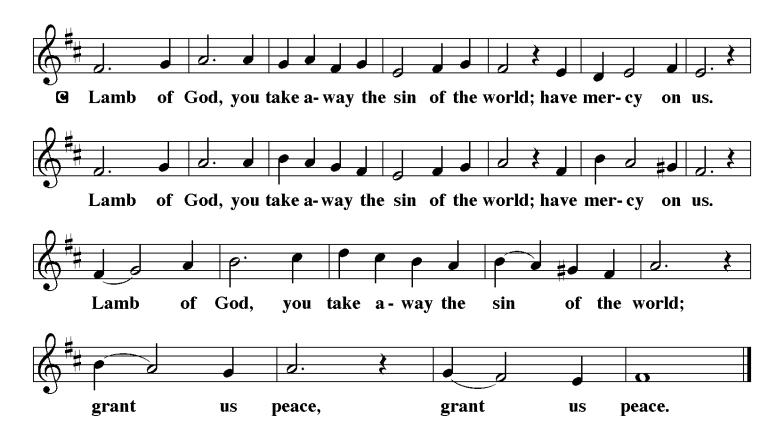
Words of Institution

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



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

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Crown Him with Many Crowns



- 1 Crown him with man y crowns, the Lamb up on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir gin's Son, the God in car nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its tro-phies won which now his brow a - dorn; whose arm those crim-son rich wounds, yet vis - i ble a bove, in beau-ty glo-ri-fied. in the strife for those he came to and rose vic - to - rious





thy match-less king through all and hail him as e - ter - ni - ty. babe of Beth - le - hem. the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies SO bright. who died. to bring, and lives that death may die. e - ter - nal life

- 5 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
- 6 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903

Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey 1816–1893 Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

The Sending Go in peace. Share the harvest. 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:

Melissa will have office hours here in Lancaster on Mon, Wed, and Thurs, from 10am to 3pm.

Quarterly Statements are available upon request.

If you would like quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

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Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income \$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday

40 Sundays thru SEPTEMBER '25 \$103,360.00

actual thru SEPTEMBER 2025 \$84,836.65

difference -\$18,523.35

Offering 11/16/2025 \$ 1711.00

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!



Altar Guild: Kelly Sieracki & Corinne Rudz

Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski

Ushers: Rich Rice & Rick Tomaszewski

Available Altar Flower Dates:

Nov. 30 & Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

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, Arno Konstabel, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Bob Valois, Connie, Amanda Keneston & her daughters, Meredith, Michael Isherwood, Dexter Spanitz, Riley, Paul Rudz, and the family & friends of David Januchowski

The <u>Food Pantry</u> will be serving residents of the Lancaster Towers on **Mondays from 11-2**. We are seeking volunteers to assist during this time. Kindly consider donating time to help with this new venture. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. For any questions, please contact Janet Sincebaugh @ (716) 651-4685. Thank you!

The goal has been reached for Thanksgiving Turkey dinners for the Food Pantry. THANK YOU for your generosity! The need continues all year long, so if you are able, please add an item or two for the Food Pantry to your cart when you shop.

If you are hosting an event in our <u>Fellowship Hall</u>, please feel free to check our <u>sharing closet for supplies</u> (formerly known as the room across from the kitchen, the sacred closet, or that little room at the end of the back hall)! 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.

It's <u>Angel Tree</u> time! Tags are available on trees upstairs and downstairs. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You may purchase the gift listed (or something similar), then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. <u>Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 7th</u>. There are also envelopes 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.

<u>Directory Updates:</u> 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!

Please join us for "The Hanging of the Greens," AKA decorating the church for Christmas, on Sun. 11/23 after 10:00 am service. There is no Bills game that day and many hands make light work. See Kathy Snyder with any questions.

Care Committee Cooking Date

the Care Committee will be cooking meals on November 29th at 1pm (this is a change from the originally scheduled date of 11/15). Anyone is welcome to join us in the kitchen! If you are unable to be there, but still want to help, we can always use donations to help purchase supplies.

GOT SNEAKERS??? Guiding Eyes for the Blind is having a sneaker drive with a sneaker recycling organization called GotSneakers. If you would like to help, please bring in your used/old sneakers and deposit them in the receptacle in the Fellowship Hall marked GotSneakers? Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook @stjohnslancaster

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.

The **Choir is looking for singers** to sing for Christmas. Practice is on Thursdays @ 7:30pm. Please join us!

Friendsgiving Youth Event: November 30th @ 1-3pm
Bring a friend. Bring a side to share.
RSVP by 11/28, call or text Kelly @ 716-868-3023

The <u>Annual Congregational Meeting</u> 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.

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.

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Event

Time

Bible Study

9:00am

Location Memorial Lounge

Joysingers

9:30am

In Person/ Online Service

10:00am

Sunday School

10:00am

Sanctuary

Decorate Church for Christmas

11:15am

Monday, November 24, 2025

Event

Location

Church Office Hours **Guiding Eyes**

10:00am - 3:00pm 4:30pm

Church Office Fellowship Hall Fellowship Hall

Girl Scouts 6:00pm Chordsmen 7:30pm

Chapel

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Event

Time

Location

Parsons Pipe Organ Council Meeting

8:00am - 10:00am

Sanctuary

NA Meeting

7:00pm

Chapel - Conference Area

7:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Event

Time

Church Office Hours

10:00am - 3:00pm

Church Office

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Event

Thanksgiving Day

Time

Location

Location

Friday, November 28, 2025

Location

Camp Gathering - Krathaus

12:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday, November 29, 2025

Time

Location

Congregational Care Meals In Person Service

1:00pm 5:30pm Kitchen Chapel

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Event

Time

Location

Advent **Bible Study**

9:00am

Memorial Lounge

Joysingers

9:30am

Sanctuary

In Person/ Online Service

10:00am

Sunday School

10:00am

Confirmation Class

11:15am

Friendsgiving

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Fellowship Hall









LYMA CHRISTMAS PARTY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH

5PM COCKTAILS * 7PM DINNER

Skoob's Village Grille 50 Central Ave, Lancaster

530 PER PERSON - ALL ARE WELCOME!
CONTACT GARY RUDZ 716-829-9618



Salvation Army Angel Tree

November 8th- December 7th

Take tag from tree
Replace with star
Purchase gift
Place unwrapped in gift bag
Tag securely attached
OR

Take envelope from tree for monetary donation
Cash or check
to Salvation Army
Place in offering plate
Or turn in to Office

?'s call Carol 716-861-1619

Ingel Tree

Deadline December 7th

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
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
Office 683-8972 (Mon-Wed-Thurs 10am-3pm)

www.stjohnslanc.org stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

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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