

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 12, 2026

The Prelude
Heart II Heart Bluegrass Band



Confession and Forgiveness

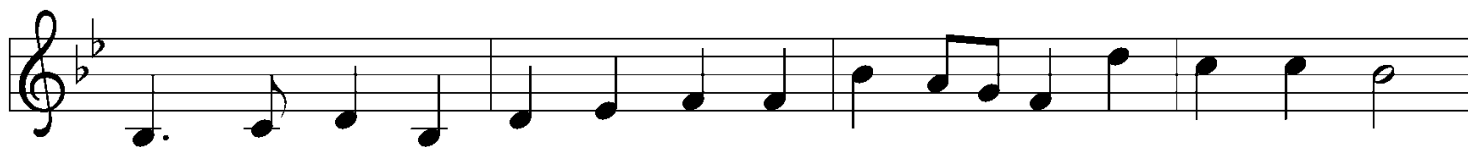
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

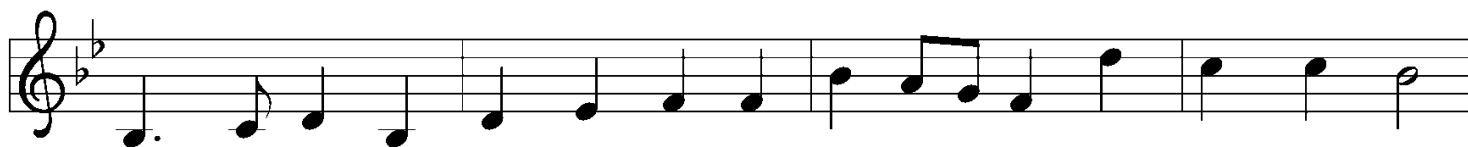
Silence for Prayer & Confession

Compassionate God,
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot
free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy
and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In
Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and
Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading
Isaiah 55:10-13
Matthew Retallack - Godfather

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower
and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out
from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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



Psalm 65:1a, 9-13
(NRSV)
Kim Retallack - Mother

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;

the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.



The Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Julianna Woite - Godmother

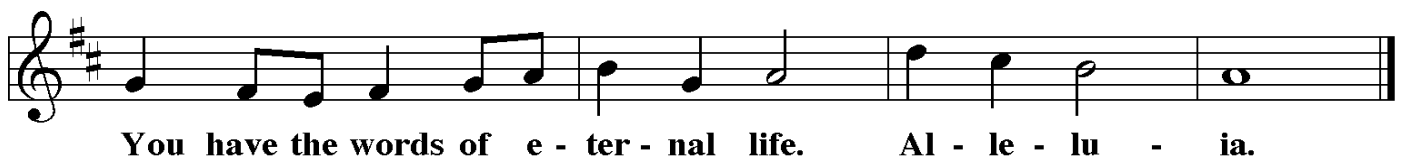
Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia



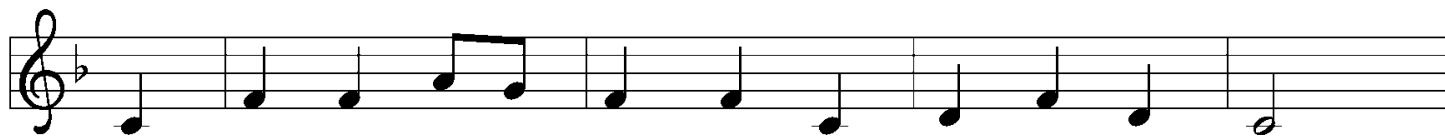
The Gospel Reading
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Rev. Tim Madsen
Glory to you, O God.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

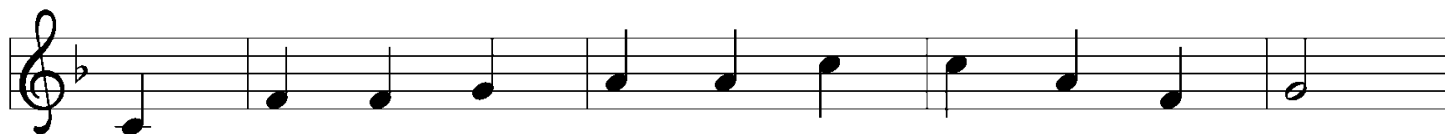
“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

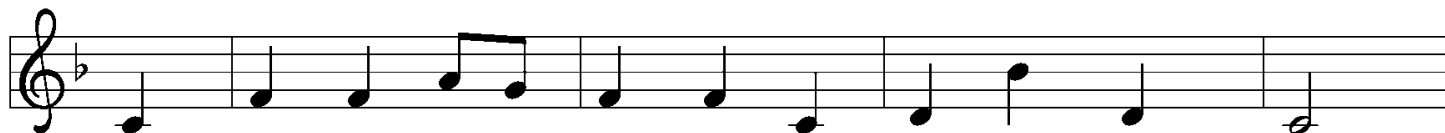
The Sermon: Rev. Tim Madsen

As Rain from the Clouds

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

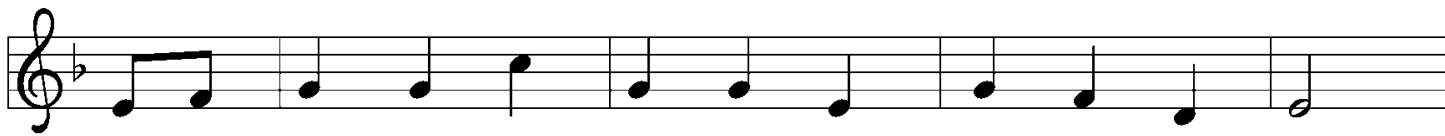


Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.





We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

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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 Renewal of Ordination Vows Rev. John Scarafia

The Prayers of the Church Kathy Konstabel

God of grace, hear our prayer.

**Grateful for your abundant provision
and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you,
through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. 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

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

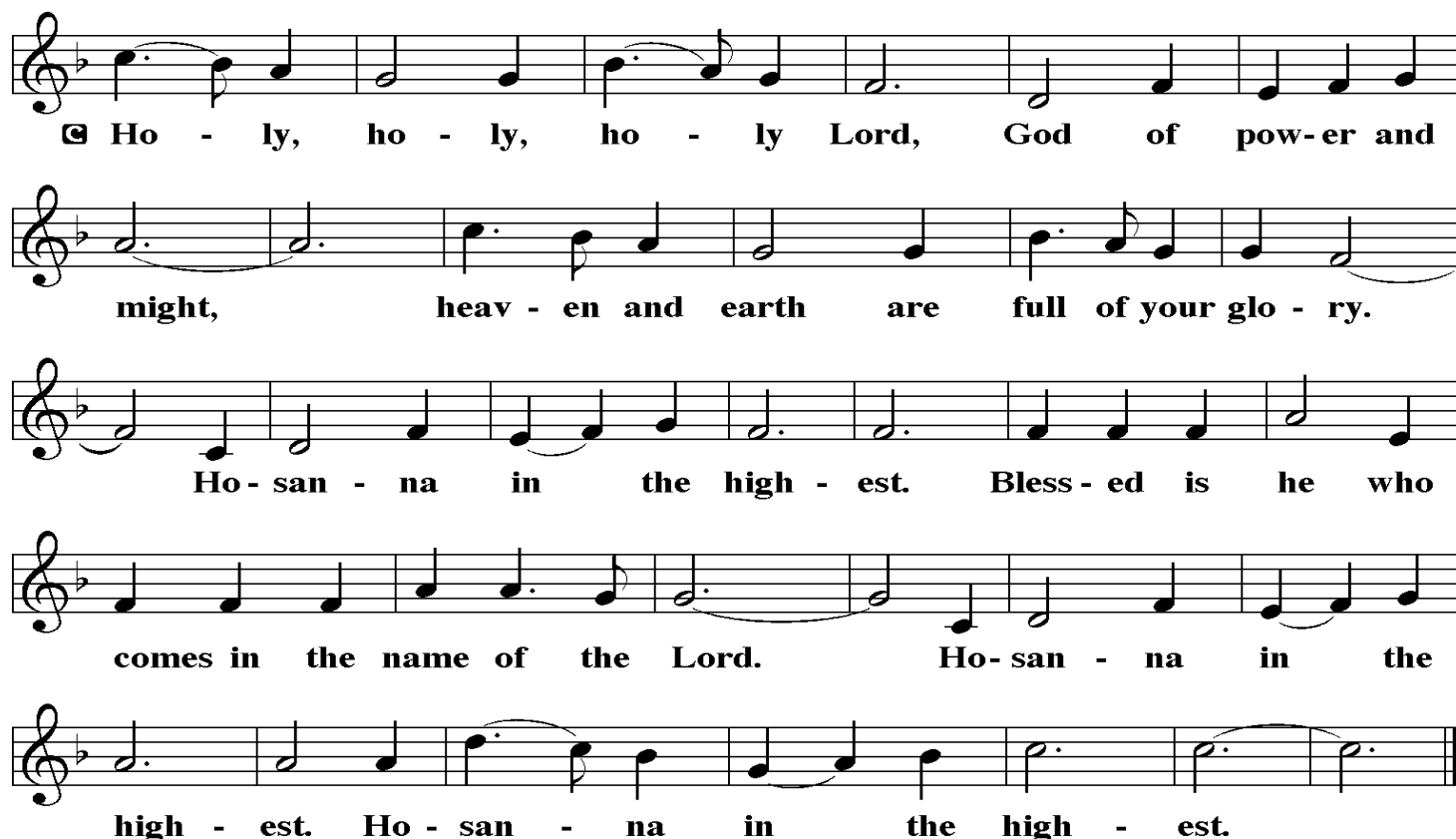
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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



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



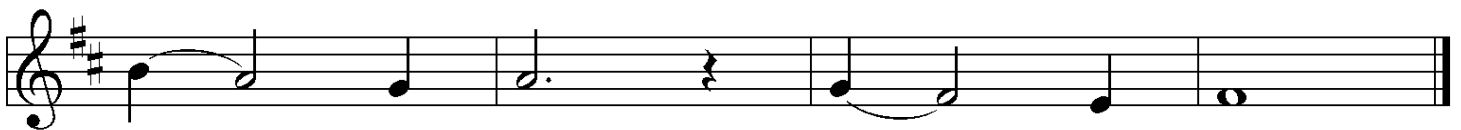
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 Assistant
Drake Retallack - Son

Communion Music
Heart II Heart Bluegrass Band

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

**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

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**



The Benediction

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The Sending

Heaven has come near.
Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

Pastor Jamie thanks all who have been part of these 15 years! Ministry is never a solo endeavor, it's always about the community. Continue to go in to the world trusting that you are called, and that we are joined together in God's Love!

A reception will be held to honor Pr. Jamie's 15 year Ordination Anniversary: July 12 @ Lancaster Fellowship Hall after 10am worship service.

If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

Altar Guild: Sharon Walker & Carol Graham
Greeters: RaeAnn Jakubowski & Samantha Gierlinger
Bead Table: Drake Retallack

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!



B*I*N*G*O

Join us on Friday, July 17th in the Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and prizes! Free to play, and all ages welcome! Doors open at 6:30pm - bingo starts at 7:00pm.

Bingo chips, drinks and snacks will be available for anyone who doesn't bring their own!

Congregation Care Committee

has been cooking meals that are available to the congregation. Help yourself or help a friend! You can pick up a meal from the freezer, located in the fellowship hall, near the stage. Cooking dates are listed on the church calendar. Feel free to join us for a few hours of creating meals and enjoying fellowship!

Congregation Care Committee

will be meeting to cook on July 18th at 12:30pm. We are usually done in about 2 hours. Please join us! Everyone is welcome and all help is appreciated!

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, July 22nd at 2:30 PM to discuss the historical novel (based on a true story), WAYWARD GIRLS, by Susan Wiggs.

We lift up: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Bob Higgins, Joann Thaesler, Marge Savash, Angie, Clare Hotchkiss, Tim Rogacki, and the family and friends of Edna Mann

Poppi's Pantry is serving this congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2**. Kindly consider donating time to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. Thank you!

Poppi's Pantry As we settle into our larger Pantry, we need more help than ever to fill the shelves. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Most needed: cereal, ready-to-eat meals (chili, stew, etc.), canned meats, canned fruit, or anything sugar-free. Thank you so much for helping to feed those who are experiencing food insecurity!

Thank you to our St. John's Family, including all the anonymous members. Your generosity is overwhelming and so very much appreciated! The Amazon & Walmart cards are very beneficial and are indeed helping to provide for Paul's care. We appreciate each and every one of you for caring and sharing and your continued prayers.

Sincerely, Paul & Corinne Rudz

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

Buffalo Bisons Lutheran Night @ Sahlen Field:
Friday, August 21st @ 6:35pm. See flyers for complete details.
If you would like to go as a group, contact Greg Wildridge @
gbw1101@aol.com or 716-863-6763.

Collecting Dash's Register Receipts: Save your Dash's receipts and deposit them in the boxes in the Sanctuary or the Chapel to benefit Niagara Lutheran Health Services. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook @stjohnslancaster

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Worship/Ordination Celebration	10:00am	Sanctuary

Monday, July 13, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Poppi's Pantry	11:00am- 2:00pm	Downstairs Offc
Guiding Eyes	5:00pm- 7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
LYMA Golf	5:15pm	Kis-n-Greens Alden

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Event	Time	Location
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Good News Articles Due		
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office

Friday, July 17, 2026

Event	Time	Location
B*I*N*G*O Night	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Congregational Care Meals	12:30pm	Kitchen
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Coffee Hour	11:00am	Memorial Lounge
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

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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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
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (*global concerns may be named*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Bob Higgins, Joann Thaesler, Marge Savash, Angie, Clare Hotchkiss, Tim Rogacki, and the family and friends of Edna Mann). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith (especially Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**