

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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The Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading
Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished garden;
he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

Psalm 80:7-15
Read Responsively

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

**Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.



The Second Reading
Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading Matthew 21:33-46 **Glory to you, O God.**

[Jesus said] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

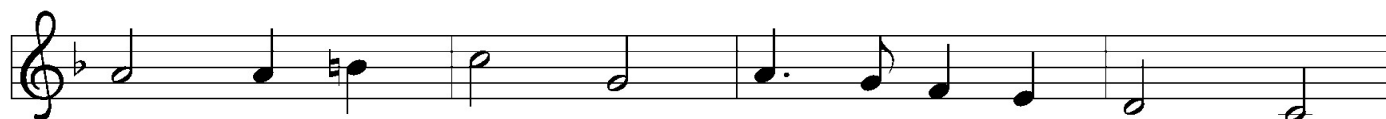
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



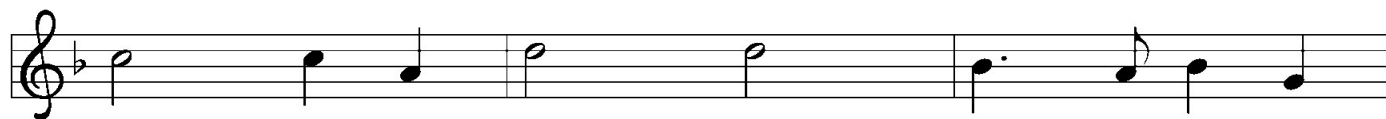
The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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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 Prayers of the Church

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God,
we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
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 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

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The Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
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 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

**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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



The Benediction

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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The Sending

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
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:

St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.

St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Altar Guild: Kathy Snyder

Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski

Ushers: Rich Rice & Daniel Rice

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!



Offering

9/27//2026

\$1430.00

Quarterly Statements available upon request.

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

We lift up: om 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, Marcus Moen, and the family and friends of Dawn Rizzi

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!

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, September 30th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, THE CORRESPONDENT, by Virginia Evans.

Altar Flower Arrangement: flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2). Available Flower Dates: Oct 11, 18, 25

Save the Date

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner 2026
Tuesday, November 3rd from 4-7pm

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

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

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 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!

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

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on **Friday, October 23rd** 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

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.

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!

October Women's lunch/fellowship –
10/14/2026 @ 11:30 am @ Olive Tree

Sieracki/Santucci Thanksgiving

It's that time of year again, and the Sieracki/Santucci family would like to share their blessings with an invitation to anyone who might otherwise be alone for the holiday. If you would like to join them, here at St. John's on Thursday, November 26th @ 4pm, please contact Kelly or the church office.

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs

Monday, October 5, 2026

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am- 1:30pm	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

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

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

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

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

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Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones (*regions in crisis may be named*), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering (*especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvine, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, Wayne Wolf, David Neiabala; Diane, Sandy & family, Rosie Cline, Marcus Moen, and the family and friends of Dawn Rizzi*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith (congregational formation ministries may be named). Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.