

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

The Prelude
The Greetings
The Invocation

Opening Hymn

ELW 771

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in-ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The First Reading
Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm 33:12-22
(Read responsively)

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!
Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

**The Lord looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord,
our helper and our shield.

**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

Second Reading
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

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.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

The Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel Reading
Luke 12:32-40

Glory to you, O Lord

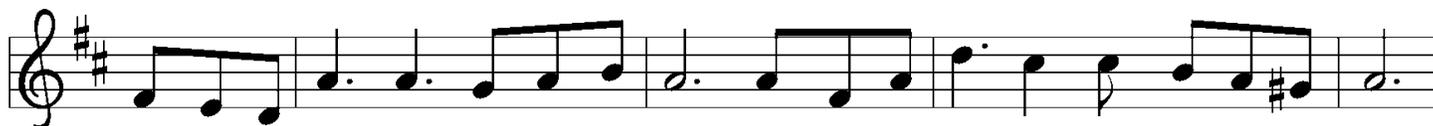
[Jesus said] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

The Sermon - Pastor Jamie Retallack

Blessed Assurance

- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (especially). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (especially Elliana Meyers, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Debby Taylor, Hans Kiener, Janet, Melvin Girardin, Bernie Lewis, Ed Monaco, Joann Thaesler, Edna Mann, Gary Basher, Richard, Marge Savash, & Tom Morse.). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation (specific ministries may be named) and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

...Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God,
and hold us forever in your steadfast love;
through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The Offertory 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.

The Offertory Prayer

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Je - sus. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

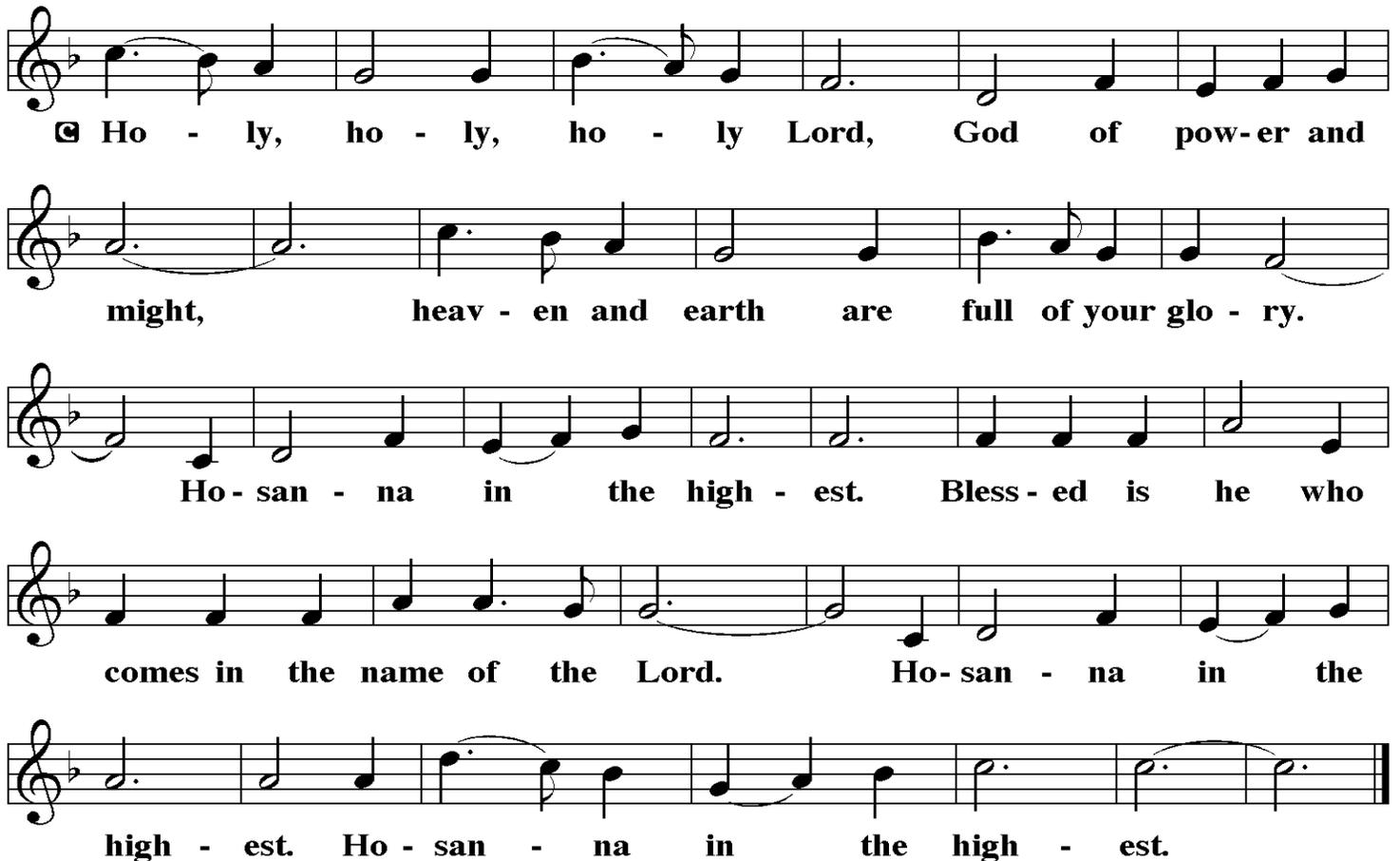
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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



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

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

The Benediction

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 Your prom - ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.

Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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The Sending

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

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

St. John's Summer Worship Schedule:
Saturdays @ 5:30pm and Sundays @ 9:30am.

Beginning September 11th, St John's will resume a "regular" worship schedule: Saturdays @ 5:30pm, & Sundays @ 9am & 10:30am. Sunday school will also resume @ 9am on Sundays.

Bible Study
@1pm Thursdays

After a long pandemic, Pastor is fully resuming normal visitation. If you would like a pastoral visit for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell at (716) 848-9683.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday	8/7	9:30am	In person/Streamed Service
Monday	8/8	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	8/8	5:15pm	LYMA Golf
Monday	8/8	7:30pm	Queen City Chordsmen
Tuesday	8/9	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	8/11	1:00pm	Bible Study
Friday	8/12	7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Saturday	8/13	11:00am	Wheelchair Football Practice
Saturday	8/13	5:30pm	In person Service
Sunday	8/14	9:30am	In person/ Streamed Service

We pray for Elliana Meyers, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Debby Taylor, Hans Kiener, Janet, Melvin Girardin, Bernie Lewis, Ed Monaco, Joann Thaesler, Edna Mann, Gary Basher, Richard, Marge Savash, & Tom Morse

Deacon
Sam Miller

Ushers
Linda Costa & Kathy Burr

7/31/2022: \$2270.26

Collecting Dash's Register Receipts
Save your Dash's receipts
and deposit them in the boxes
in the Memorial Lounge or The Chapel
To benefit Niagara Lutheran Health Services

Altar Flower Arrangements are \$30 (for 2). To dedicate flowers please continue to use the envelopes provided at the church, contact the church office either 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. Available dates: 8/14, 8/28, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30.

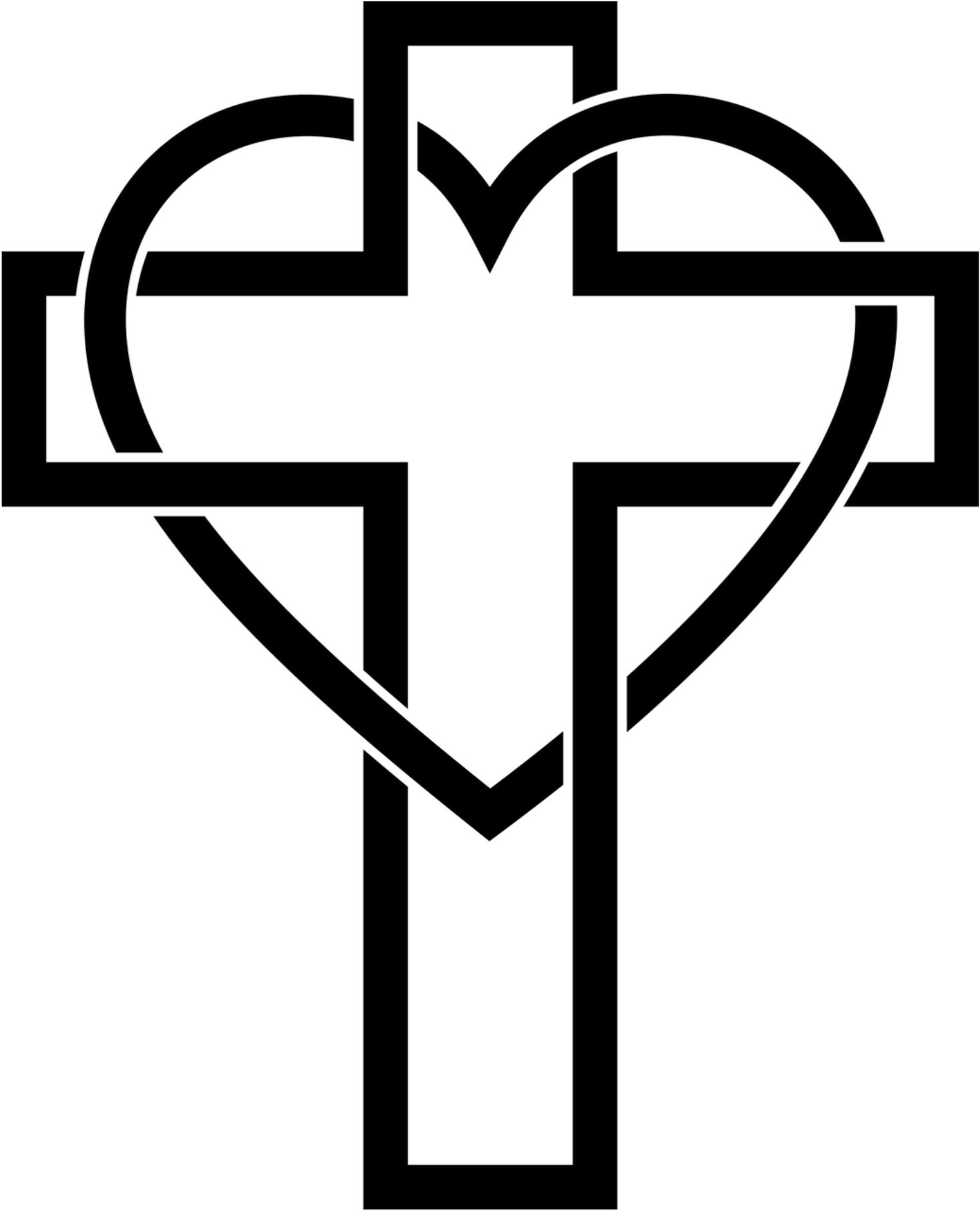
BOOK CLUB

Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thurs, August 25th at 7:00 PM to discuss Danielle Steel's novel, JOHNNY ANGEL.

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslancaster)

*For where
your
treasure
is,
THERE your
heart
will be also.*

LUKE 12:34



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.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Kathy Konstabel, President (364-1044)
Janet Sincebaugh, Vice-President (651-4685)
Karen McClintock, Secretary (683-1808)
Kathryn Snyder, Treasurer (583-1061)
Linda Dean (683-5638)
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