

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church Lancaster



January Newsletter



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Good News

Rev. Jamie Retallack 848-9683

January 2020

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.

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Worship Times

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 9am (Sun. School 9am)

Sunday 10:30am

Office Hours

9:00am-2:00pm

Mon-Thurs

683-8972

stjohnslancater55@gmail.com



A Pastor's first Christmas with a congregation is a special time. You get to see how the Sanctuary looks when its all decorated. You get to see it full of poinsettias, greens and kids performing Christmas pageants. The feeling of a warm Church on a cold dark winter night lit up with candles and song. Then of course there is the fact that the sanctuary is filled with people gathered together to celebrate the birth of Christ. There is truly nothing like it. There can be a tendency to think of Christmas' past and be nostalgic but there is no worry about that when it's your first one. A pastor's first Christmas is one of Joy, fellowship and hope. I'm so excited for that experience. Perhaps that is why people love Christmas eve so much, we talk about joy and hope and we do so while being in a place full of joy and hope. That is the sense that John tries to convey at the beginning of his Gospel.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There is no shortage of darkness in the world. We all face our fair share of disappointments and daily stresses. We turn on the news and see house fires, arrests, destruction and fighting. Our relationships aren't always easy, work isn't always easy, school isn't always easy. We may doubt ourselves and our choices. We will be confident of something only to be let down. Yes this world can be full of darkness. But on Christmas eve we are reminded that the light of God shines in that darkness and the darkness can not overcome the light.

In the end those dark moments will fade and God's light will remain. Perhaps the darkness will fade soon, a temporary set back. Perhaps it will fade with time, a struggle to overcome. Perhaps the darkness will never fade as we go through life but we rely on the promise that God still overcomes that darkness. No matter what kind of darkness we face we can be sure that it will not overcome the light of God.

On Christmas, I pray, we will have an experience of that hope, of that light shining in the darkness. In a full church, beautifully decorated, filled with songs and candles we will experience hope. The darkness will never over come.

Peace,

Jamie

Prayer List

Known to be hospitalized or in need of prayers

Allen Quillen

Nance Barnawoski

David Wyzykowski

Katie Swanson

Dave Sieracki

Dorthea Konstabel

Friends and Family of Josh Wright

Dante Michael

Mission Message

Hungry?

The past few months of the year have been filled with so many opportunities to eat! First the football games (go Bills!), with copious snacks and pizza and wings. Then Halloween candy; then Thanksgiving, with an embarrassment of food and desserts. All through December we bake and eat Christmas cookies, and on the eve and day of the holiday itself, the table is spread heavily with all our favorites. Then we cap it off when we eat (and drink) to celebrate the New Year. The average American gains 5-10 pounds, and the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight.

BUT, more than 11% of U.S. households (about 37.2 million people) don't know where their next meal is coming from; for 12 million, that meal won't come at all. 12.6 million people skip meals or don't eat enough, just to

stretch the available food. And these abysmal statistics are actually an improvement from 10 years ago. But now there is legislation pending that would eliminate 700,000 people from the food stamp program. Who is most vulnerable? The LGBTQ community, single-parent households, the elderly, people with health crises, anyone facing job discrimination.

Responding to hunger has been part of the church's work since its beginning. Acts 6 describes how the early church organized food distribution to the community. In 1 Corinthians, Paul scolds the church at Corinth for neglecting hungry people. In the Lutheran tradition, Martin Luther felt that separating worship from service work would be a denial of the Gospel. This year, ELCA World Hunger supported more than 70 ministries across the U.S. and Caribbean. Some provide food, some do vocational training, others plant community gardens. Your Synod Mission Support makes this possible. Thanks be to God for your generosity! May 2020 continue to be blessed by the giving from your abundance!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Date	Deacon
January 5 th	<u>RaeAnn Jakubowski/ Kathy Snyder</u>
January 12 th	<u>Sam Miller/ Kathy Konstabel</u>
January 19 th	<u>Kathy Konstabel/ Kathy Snyder</u>
January 26 th	<u>RaAnn Jakubowski/ Sam Miller</u>

Date	Acolyte
January 5 th	<u>Virginia Graham/Anna Priester</u>
January 12 th	<u>Russell Stranc/Cedar Willadsen</u>
January 19 th	<u>Landyn Rogacki/Regina Cinotti</u>
January 26 th	<u>Miia Dembski/Samantha Gierlinger</u>

Date	Crucifer
January 5 th	<u>Regina Cinotti/Miia Dembski</u>
January 12 th	<u>Samantha Gierlinger/Nicholas Jacobs</u>
January 19 th	<u>Virginia Graham/Anna Priester</u>
January 26 th	<u>Russell Stranc/Cedar Willadsen</u>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:30 AM Communion Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 9:30 AM Quilters 7:30 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 5:30 PM Communion Service</p>
<p>5 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Meeting 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Quilters</p>	<p>8 6:00 PM Lancaster Garden Club</p>	<p>9 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 30864 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 5:30 PM Communion Service</p>
<p>12 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Communion Service 11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>13 5:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting 7:00 PM WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM Quilters</p>	<p>15 Good News Articles Due</p>	<p>16 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 5:30 PM Communion Service</p>
<p>19 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Quilters</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Book Club 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 30864 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>24 6:00 PM Anniversary Dinner Celebration</p>	<p>25 5:30 PM Communion Service</p>
<p>26 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Communion Service 11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>27 5:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting</p>	<p>28 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 5:30 PM Communion Service</p>

Announcements

and reminders

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group is always looking for new members, and is also in need of donations of baby yarn. Check the church calendar for our meeting dates!

November 3rd, January 5th, March 1st, May 3rd

Quilters meet every Tuesday at 9:30am. New members always welcome-no experience needed! Donations are also graciously accepted! New members are always welcome to join-no experience needed, and donations are graciously accepted. Quilts made benefit the Lutheran World



Lutheran World Relief

JOYSINGERS have begun rehearsals- we welcome all interested singers ages 3 and up. This group is open to individuals and families who would like to help us sing praises to the Lord. We rehearse most Sundays from 10:00-10:30am and we sing in church at either 9 or 10:30 about once a month from October to May. Come when you can, we love to see new faces.

Do you love music?! Rehearsals for the St. John's



Choirs have started up again! Every Thursday we will have 2 rehearsals: 6:30pm for Handbell Choir, 7:30pm for Choir. All are welcome! Even if you haven't been a part of these groups in the past everyone, no matter what musical experience, are welcome to give it a try!

Thanks to all who contributed to the Angel Tree project. There were over 100 gift bags and many donations to this worthy cause. It is always heart-warming to see faith in action!

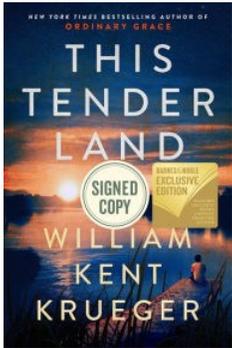


Thank you for the clothing donations given to The Arc Erie County New York. At this time they have plenty of shirts, but the preschool is always in need of spare clothes - gently used pants (sizes 3-5T), socks, and sneakers. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or given to Carol Schwertz. Thanks for your generosity.

We extend our MOST SINCERE THANKS and praise to all that attended the calling hours and the Blessed Service to extend their condolences and well wishes and prayers to our daughter, Jackie Wright and her sister Jillian Graap, and their families on the passing of their son and brother, Josh Wright. May God bless and keep you and them in His hands!

Also, a warm thanks to Pastor Debi and Pastor Jamie for the fitting and wonderful memorial service where Josh has begun his Christian life with our Lord and Savior.
-Greg and Bunny Wildridge (aka, Grampy and Grammy)

Every week the deacons read the lessons, lead us in prayer and assist with communion. But even more importantly the deacons show us that all of us have our role to play in the worship of our LORD. If you are **interested in adding your name to our list of deacons** please let Pastor know. If you are on the fence or uncertain if you'd like to be a deacon please talk to pastor and he will help you discern if being a deacon is where God is calling you.

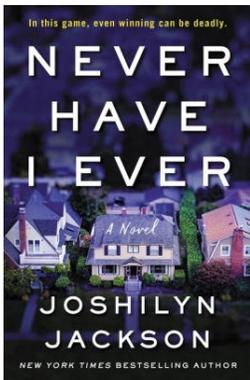


Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM to discuss William Kent Krueger's novel, **THIS TENDER LAND**.

Set in Minnesota in 1932—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, **THIS TENDER LAND** is an en-thralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

Read this novel about a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression...then come and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!



Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, February 27th at 7:00 PM to discuss Joshilyn Jackson's book, **NEVER HAVE I EVER**, a twisting novel of domestic suspense in which a group of women play a harmless drinking game that escalates into a war of dark pasts.

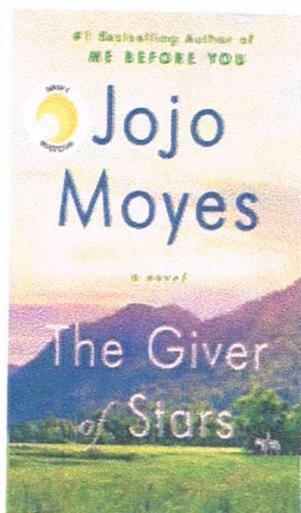
In this game, even winning can be deadly...

Amy Whey is proud of her ordinary life and the simple pleasures that come with it—teaching diving lessons, baking cookies for new neighbors, helping her best friend, Charlotte, run their local book club. Her greatest joy is her family: her devoted professor husband, her spirited fifteen-year-old stepdaughter, her adorable infant son. And, of course, the steadfast and supportive Charlotte. But Amy's sweet, uncomplicated life begins to unravel when the mysterious and alluring Angelica Roux arrives on her doorstep one book club night.

Sultry and magnetic, Roux beguiles the group with her feral charm. She keeps the wine flowing and lures them into a game of spilling secrets. Everyone thinks it's naughty, harmless fun. Only Amy knows better. Something wicked has come her way—a she-devil in a pricey red sports car who seems to know the terrible truth about who she is and what she once did.

When they're alone, Roux tells her that if she doesn't give her what she asks for, what she deserves, she's going to make Amy pay for her sins. One way or another.

To protect herself and her family and save the life she's built, Amy must beat the devil at her own clever game, matching wits with Roux in an escalating war of hidden pasts and unearthed secrets. Amy knows the consequences if she can't beat Roux. What terrifies her is everything she could lose if she wins. Read this diabolically entertaining tale of betrayal, deception, temptation, and love filled with dark twists leavened by Joshilyn Jackson's trademark humor, **NEVER HAVE I EVER** explores what happens when the transgressions of our past come back with a vengeance.....then come and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!



Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 PM to discuss Jojo Moyes' novel, THE GIVER OF STARS, a story set in Depression-era America about five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond.

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them—and to the men they love—becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

Read THE GIVER OF STARS, a funny heartbreaking, enthralling, and richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond...then come and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

Our 175th Anniversary Dinner is fast approaching! This will be a fun event, and past interns and Pastors have been invited, Pastor Scarafia will be giving a keynote message! Please fill out a reservation form and return it with a check to the office!

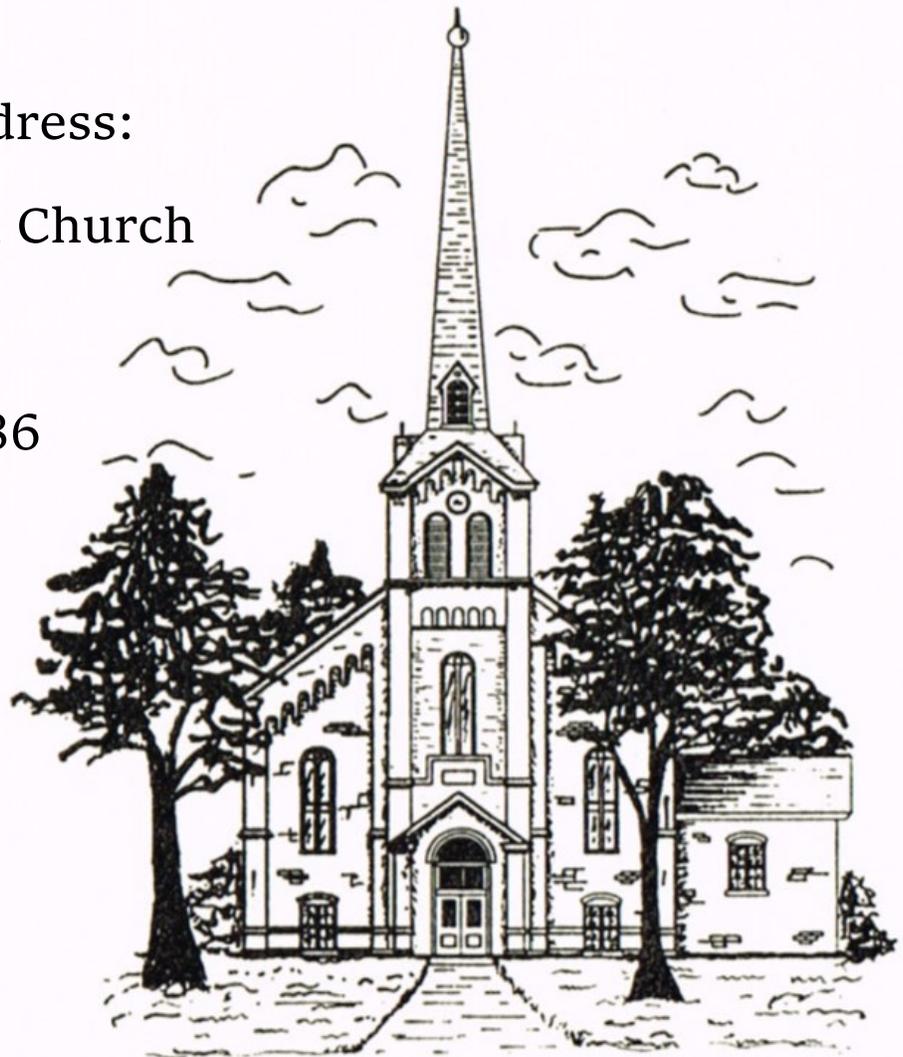
Reservations forms are inserted in this newsletter and can be filled out and mailed back to the church with your check. See you all there!

Church mailing address:

St. John's Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Ave.

Lancaster, NY 14086



Youth Group!

Attention youth and parents!!

January 17th (or 18th) 8pm to noon next day, Youth Lock-In! Please bring a snack to share and sleeping gear. We will be starting to work on upgrading the youth room! Please be on the look out for more information.

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group here at St. John's, please contact

Kelly Sieracki at 716-868-3023.

Council Corner

A message from Council members

Hello and welcome to Council Corner,

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of Council Corner for 2020. Council is very excited to continue to work closely with Pastor as we move forward into a fresh year taking care of the business of the church as well as developing and growing our work in the community and here at St. Johns.

Plans are in place for our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020 following worship service. Please join us as we tend to the business of the church for the new year. We will hear from Pastor, Council and our various committees as well as have a comprehensive budget review and vote. We hope to see you there!

The final celebratory event for our 175th anniversary will be held on Friday January 24th, 2020 at Ripa's restaurant beginning at 6:00 pm. The committee and council have many exciting things planned for the evening and we hope you will mark your calendar and join in the fun and festive celebration!. RSVP cards can be found at church on any usher station and of course in the church office.

Lastly, as their terms come to a close, Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam Miller and Carol Graham for their many years of service to Council and to St. Johns. Thank you both!

Blessings,

Congregation Council

Happy birthday

Time to celebrate



Jared Dembski	1-1	Barbara Litz	1-17
Eleanor Paulson	1-1	Aaron Schrutt	1-17
Norma Paulson	1-1	Edna Mann	1-18
Kenneth Rudz	1-1	Joyce Wolanske	1-18
Caroline Schaff	1-1	Alexander Powers	1-19
Frederick Greanoff Jr.	1-2	Gabrielle Gaczewski	1-20
David Smith	1-2	Jeffery Kostecky	1-20
Bonnie Wolf	1-2	Susan Spinuzza	1-20
Robert Woodill	1-2	Samuel Fiorella	1-21
Alexis Grant	1-4	Alexis Beals	1-23
Charles Kunselman	1-4	Matthew Engelbach-Smith	1-23
Benjamin Russo	1-4	Wyatt Lavis	1-23
Scarlette Stoldt	1-4	Dennis Snyder Jr.	1-23
Joyce Boettcher	1-5	David Walker	1-23
Peyton Richards	1-5	Stephen Klinger	1-24
John Yarrington	1-5	Theresa Sable	1-24
Charles Krathaus Jr.	1-6	Linda Costa	1-25
Connor Donhauser	1-8	Davina Jackson	1-26
Joshua Miller	1-8	John Krueger	1-26
Kathy Burr	1-10	Ronald Ast	1-27
Garrett Grant	1-10	Ruth Fries	1-27
Christopher Gulas-Karaszewski	1-10	Jamie Kloc	1-27
Karla Priester	1-10	Kimberly Wawrowski	1-27
Richard Schafer	1-10	Katie Boersch	1-28
Mark Scherer	1-10	Francesca Fronczak	1-28
Matthew Cinotti	1-11	Alice Kryszczynski	1-28
Madison Poss	1-11	Maximilian Samulski	1-28
Michael Coulter	1-12	Glen Snyder	1-28
Charlotte Krawczyk	1-12	Ella Mae Booth	1-29
Steven Kohlhagen II	1-13	Abigail Freund	1-30
David Sieracki	1-13	Mark Lindauer	1-30
Jason Poss	1-14	Nathaniel Vorwerk	1-30
Abby Powell	1-14	Hayley Landahl	1-31
Ronald Fuerst	1-15	Cooper Zak	1-31
Amethyst Voll	1-16		

Anniversaries

Congrats to another year!

Timothy & Jill Reif 1-1

Michael & Tara
Ziemann 1-1

Harry & Joyce Boettcher 1-10

Russell & Karen Freund
Jr. 1-17

Randolph & Mary Krebs 1-24

Yellow Pages

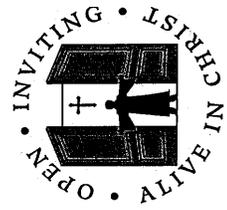
and staff

Yellow Pages

Bunny Boteler Bunny's Motor Sports (small engine repair)	684-7650
Julie Buccieri Lancaster Lady Monsters (youth lacrosse league)	807-5732
Mike Durkin HDE Electric	674-7259
Darlene Kramer Cleaning & Laundry, Errands	937-4179
David Nester Handyman	681-9716
Rachel Poss Partylite Candles & Gifts/Parties	491-4393
Christine Ruffner Usborne Children's Educational Books	656-2056
Michael Sheehan Computer & Software Sales	937-9815
Tim Stranc (TSAir) Heating & Air-Conditioning	684-9854
Brian Makey Thrivent Financial Representative	714-9852
Brian.makey@thrivent.com	
Anthony Santucci Walden Auto Sales & Service	683-2901

Staff Members

Rev. Jamie Retallack Pastor	848-9683
Rev. John Swanson Pastor Emeritus	
Rev. John Scarafia Pastor Emeritus	
Dr. Vicky Chang Director of Music	
Donna McGrew Financial Secretary	
Abby Mandris Church Secretary	860-7881



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