

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack  
716-848-9683

Second Sunday in Lent  
March 16, 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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance  
of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

## The Prayer of the Day

**Let us pray...God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18a

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, and 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.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

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

Psalm 27

*Read responsively*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

**Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer sacrifices in the sanctuary with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**“Come,” my heart says, “seek God’s face!”  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**If my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

**Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.**

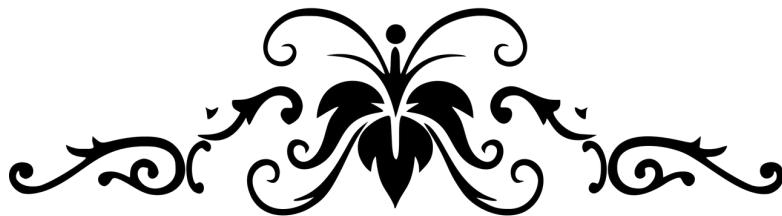
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord.**

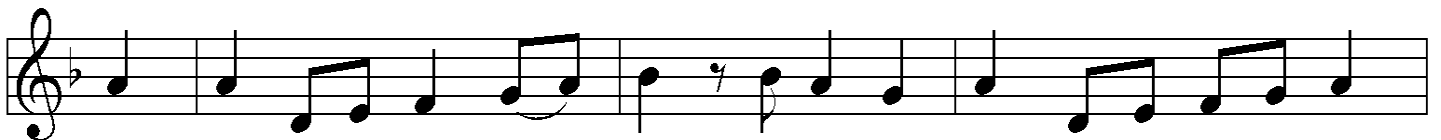
Second Reading  
Philippians 3:17--4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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



Lenten Gospel Acclamation



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel  
Luke 13:31-35  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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



The Sermon  
Pastor Jamie Retallack



*Thy Holy Wings*

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



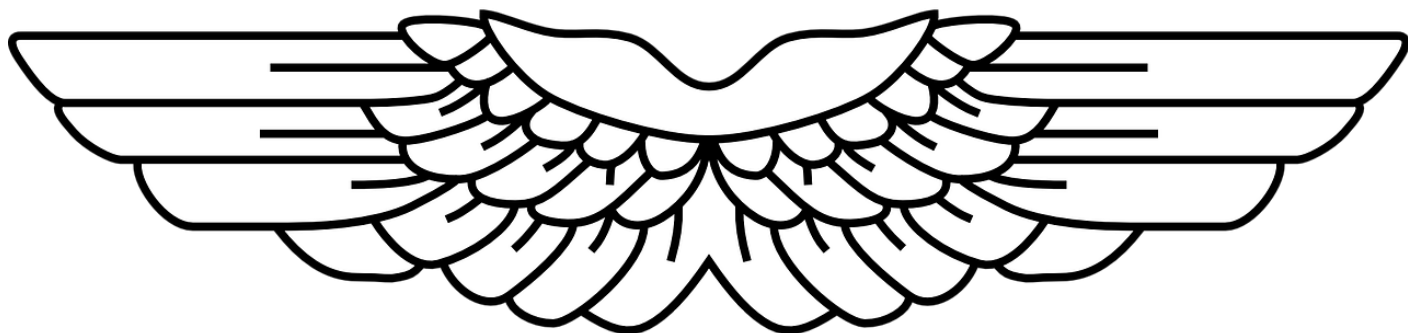
and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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## Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolf-ram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Pat Kostecky, Kevin, and Nubia Schneider). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (especially). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

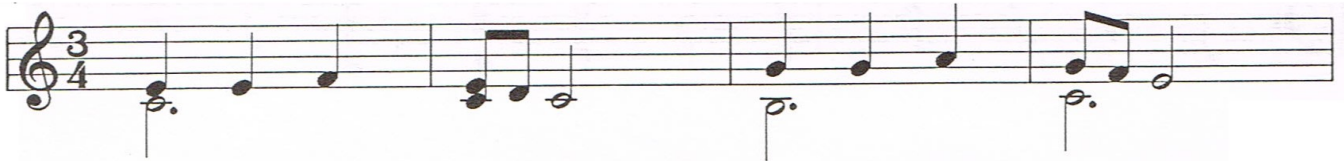
**God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

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

# The Offertory Hymn



1. Meek - ness and maj - es - ty, man - hood and De - i - ty,  
 2. Fa - ther's pure ra - di - ance, per - fect in in - no - cence;  
 3. Wis - dom un - search - a - ble, God, the in - vis - i - ble;



in per - fect har - mo - ny, the Man who is — God.  
 Yet learns o - be - di - ence to death on a — cross.  
 Love in - de - struct - i - ble in frail - ty ap - pears.



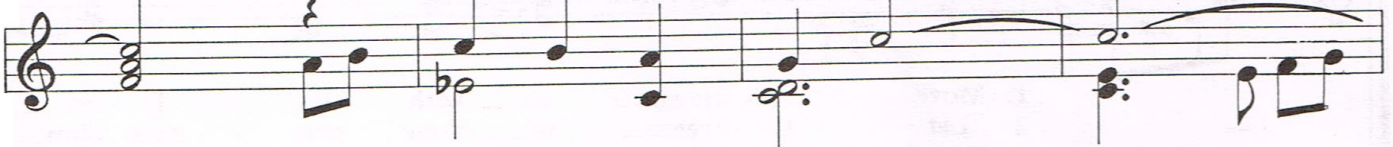
Lord of e - ter - ni - ty, dwells in hu - man - i - ty;  
 Suf - f'ring to give us life, con - quering through sac - ri - fice;  
 Lord of in - fin - i - ty, stoop - ing so ten - der - ly;



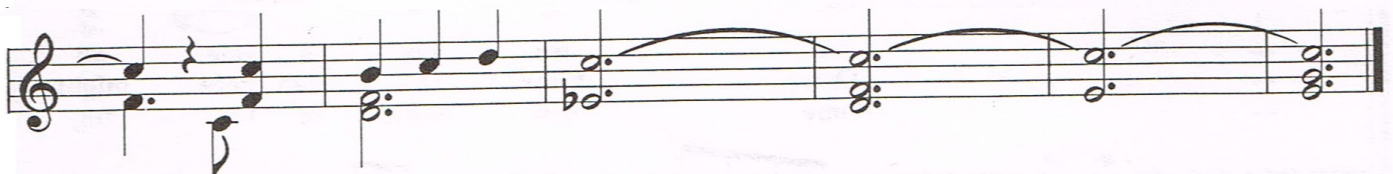
Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty — and — wash - es our feet.  
 And as they cru - ci - fy — prays, — "Fa - ther, for - give."  
 Lifts our hu - man - i - ty — to the heights of His throne.



O what a mys - ter - y, meek - ness and maj - es - ty;



Bow down and wor - ship,



for this is your God.

## The Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



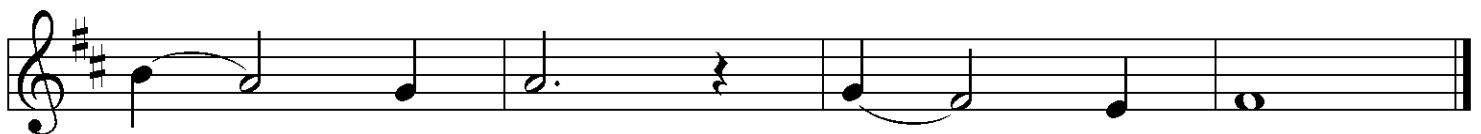
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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

*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

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Benediction

*God of Grace and God of Glory*



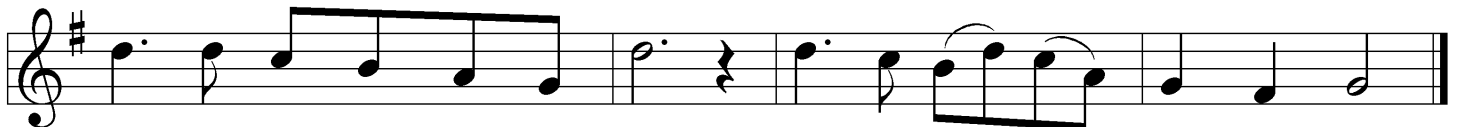
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

The Sending

Go in peace.  
 Care for others as God cares for you  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday	3/16	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/16	10:00am	Worship Lent 2 Sunday School
Sunday	3/16	11am	Coffee Hour
Sunday	3/16	11am	St Patty's Day Meal
Monday	3/17	4:00pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	3/17	7:30pm	Queen City Chordsmen
Tuesday	3/18	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	3/18	7pm	NA Meeting
Wednesday	3/19	2:30pm	Book Club
Thursday	3/20	1pm	Bible Study
Thursday	3/20	6:30pm	Handbell Practice
Thursday	3/20	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday	3/21	6:30pm	Contra Dance
Saturday	3/22	5:30pm	Worship
Saturday	3/22	7pm-9am	YOUTH: St John's Lock-In
Sunday	3/23	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/23	10:00am	Sunday School Worship Lent 3
Sunday	3/23	11am	Confirmation Class

## 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:** 3/9/25 - \$3392.10

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

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Pat Kostecky, Kevin, and Nubia Schneider

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](#)

## YOUTH

Lock-in Event. Mar 22 @ 7pm thru Mar 23 @ 9am @ St John's Lancaster: Activities planned = Using new game room on 3rd floor, make your own pizza, and devos. Bring a friend, sleep gear and overnight items. Breakfast and snacks provided. Morning clean-up begins @ 8am.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** will not meet on March 16th and 23rd.

**St Patty's Meal** sponsored by LYMA is March 16th from 11am until sold out. The meal of corned beef, cabbage, veggies, and bread & butter is \$5. There are only 100 meals, and you must purchase a ticket. The meal is take-out only. Contact Gary Rudz for tickets 716-829-9618.

**Altar Flower Dates Available:**

3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 - \$30 for two bouquets

**BOOK CLUB:** Please join us in the Fellowship Hall (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, March 19th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, Small Things Like These, by Claire Keegan. (Note the day and time changes)

**Confirmation Classes** March 9 & 23

**JANUARY 2025**

**Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income**

**\$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday**

4 Sundays thru JANUARY '25 =	\$10,336.00
actual thru JANUARY 2025 =	\$8,968.57
difference	-\$1,367.43

**Ushers**

Rich Rice  
Janet Sincebaugh

**Deacon**

Paul  
Rudz

**Altar Guild**

Kelly Sieracki  
Corinne Rudz

**Special Prayers** of Courage and Hope and Recovery  
for Nubia Schneider who is battling cancer.



# ST. PATTY'S DAY DINNER

**@ St. John's Lancaster: 55 Pleasant Ave.  
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Vegetables/Bread & Butter**

**Sunday, March 16th @ 11am**

**\$5 Dinner Reserve - Takeout Only**

**Must Have Ticket! Limited to 100 Tickets  
Sales end March 15th or Sold Out**

**Contact: Gary Rudz — 716-829-9618**



# LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

**PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 13TH**

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

**MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 17TH**

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

**GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 18TH**

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma

2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

**EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 19TH**

Worship @ 5:30pm

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 20TH**

Worship @ 10am

# Pancake Breakfast

## Palm Sunday

April 13th  
from 8-10 am

*Free will donations accepted*

*All are Welcome*



St. John's Lancaster, 55 Pleasant Ave (716) 683-8972

# EASTER EGG HUNT

## SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

### AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, 55 PLEASANT AVE, LANCASTER**



For Ages 3- Grade 7  
Rain or Shine







## Easter Flowers Order Form

**2025 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM: PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY MARCH 30TH**

			<b># of each</b>	<b>subtotal cost</b>
<b>Hyacinths</b>	6" POT	\$9.00	_____	_____
<b>Tulips</b>	6" POT	\$8.00	_____	_____
<b>White Easter Lilies</b>	6" POT	\$12.00	_____	_____
<b>Mini Daffodils</b>	5" POT	\$6.00	_____	_____
<b>Daffodils</b>	6" POT	\$8.00	_____	_____
<b>Hydrangeas (Pink, Blue, White)</b>	3 Blooms	\$17.00	_____	_____
<b>Total # of Plants</b>			_____	
<b>Total Enclosed</b>				_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Picking up this # \_\_\_\_\_ Donating this # \_\_\_\_\_

*If desired, please include your dedication for Easter Bulletin on the bottom of this form.*

## **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

Vicar Teresa J. O'Connor

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

**Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)**

[www.stjohnslanc.org](http://www.stjohnslanc.org)

[stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto: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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