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

Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

Reformation Saturday
Saturday, October 24, 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.**

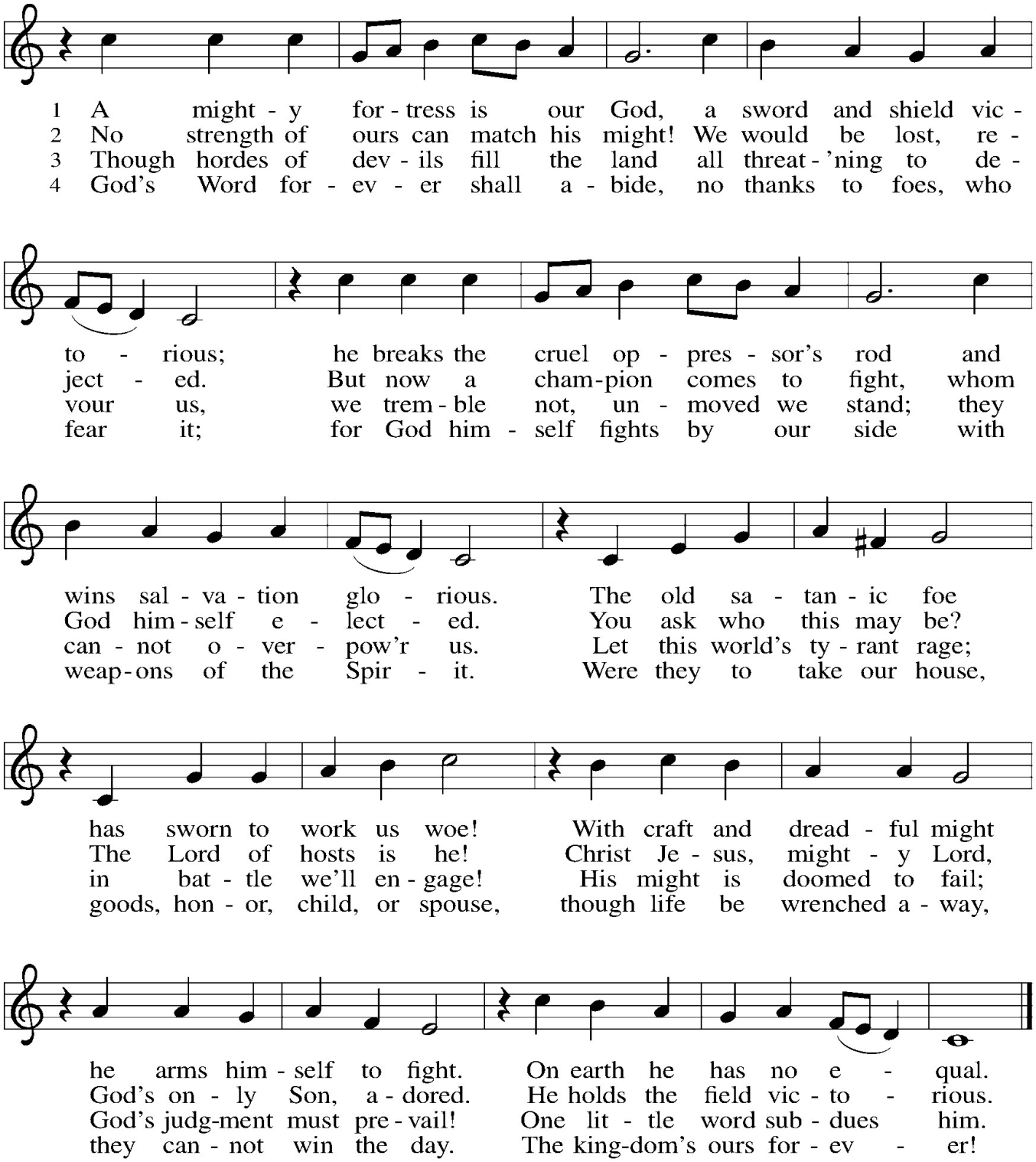
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

Opening Hymn LBW 229

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 46 (NRSV)
Read Responsively

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

**The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
God speaks, and the earth melts.**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations God has brought on the earth.**

God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; and burns the shields with fire.

**"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Second Reading
Romans 3:19-28

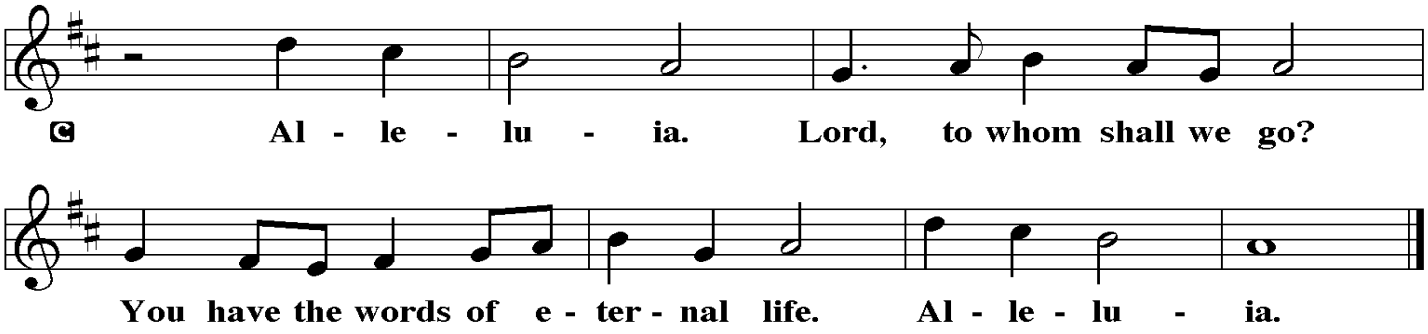
Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading

John 8:31-36

Glory to you, O God.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

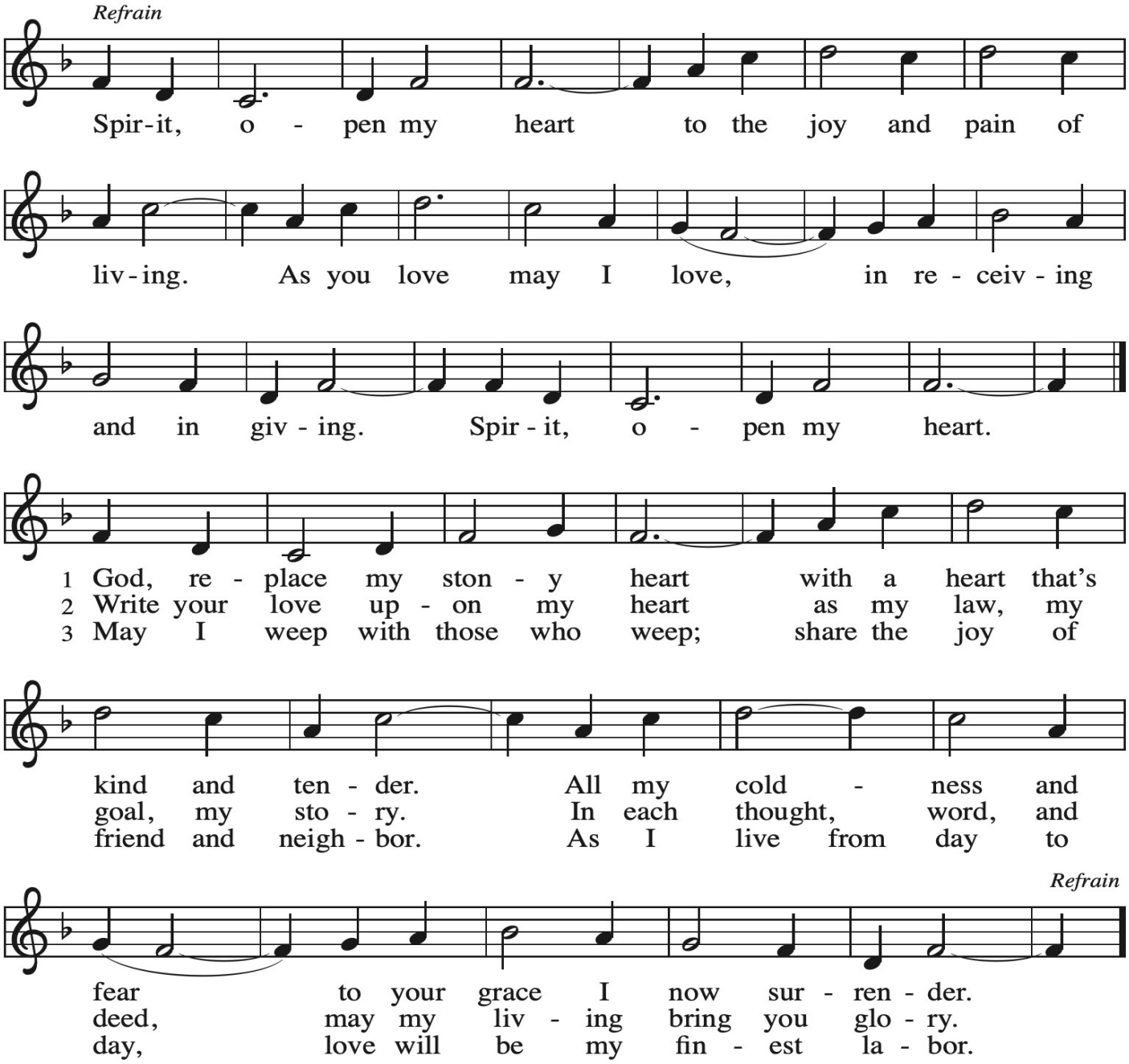
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day ACS 1043

Spirit, Open My Heart



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
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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.**

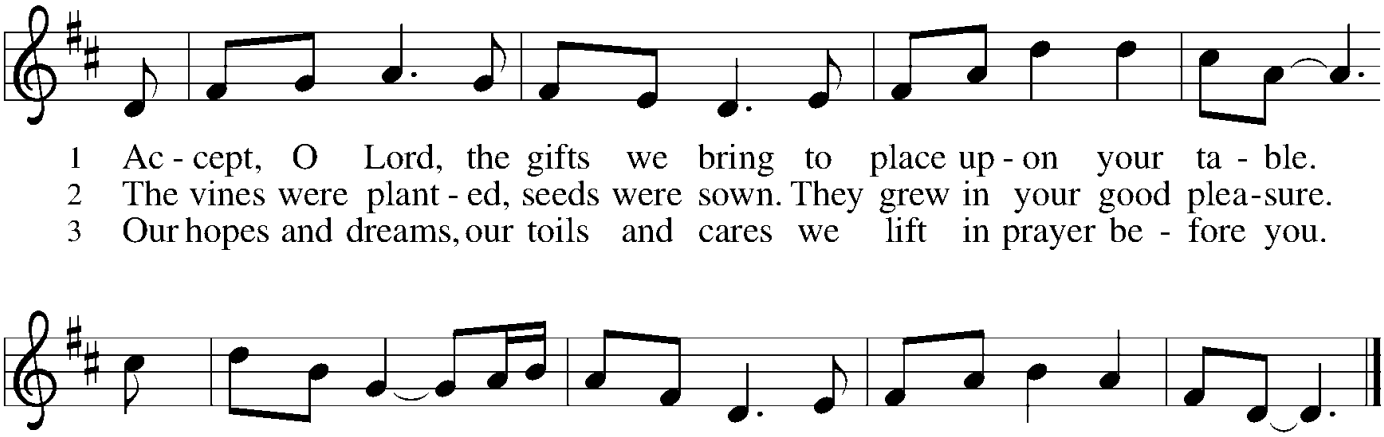
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God,
we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Gathering of the Gifts

The Offertory Hymn



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:

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 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.

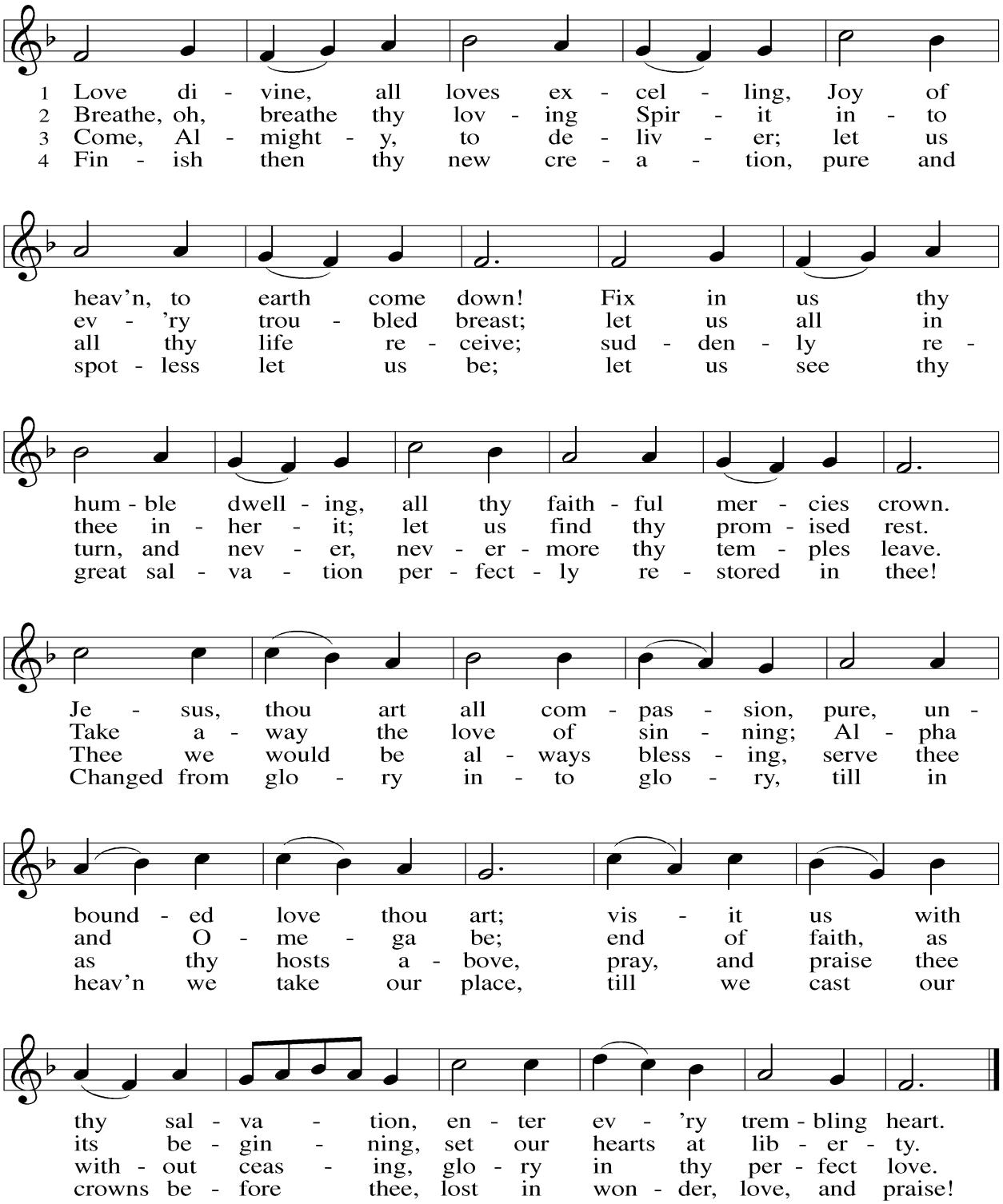
The Sending Prayer

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

Sending Hymn LBW 315

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



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: Sharon Walker & Carol Graham
Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski
Ushers: Rich Rice & Greg Wildridge

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
10/18/2026
$1910.00

Quarterly Statements available upon request.
If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

We pray for: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Rosie Cline, Marcus Moen, Joey, Teresa, and Donny.

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, October 28th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, DEAR EDWARD, by Ann Napolitano.

Altar Flower Arrangement: flower arrangements are $40 (for 2). Available Flower Dates: Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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 Thank you for the contributions towards our Thanksgiving dinners. We currently have an ample supply of canned vegetables, stuffing and cranberries. We still need boxes of instant potatoes, canned yams and canned/jarred gravy. Thank you!

Ramp Fund The St John's Lutheran Young Men association is happy to report that the ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family is presently at $830. We will be matching up to $3000 in donations to the fund. Thanks to all who have given and if not, please consider a donation. You may use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thanks again God Bless! LYMA

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on **Friday, November 20th** 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!

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.

November 8th Pastor will be leading a Scam Prevention Seminar following the service. Today there are many ways scammers try to reach out and deceive you into giving them money. Knowing what tactics they use and how to detect them can go a long way toward protecting yourself. In this one hour session pastor will cover common techniques used by the scammers, what to watch out for, and how to avoid being taken advantage of. We hope to see you there.

We are considering purchasing a **table of 10 for the upcoming LCLC Meat Raffle** and would like to see if there is enough interest to fill the table. If you would like to join us (18+ only), please **sign up by 10/30 to express your interest**. (Sign up sheet is located by the water cooler in the Memorial Lounge) Once we know how many people are interested, we will confirm whether we will purchase the table. We hope you can join us for a fun evening!

LCLC's Meat Raffle

Saturday, November 21, 2026

Venue Name & Address:

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 S Ellicott Creek Rd, Buffalo, NY 14228

Admission/Inclusions:

Tickets include entry, beer, wine, pop, water, and a large door prize entry.

Activities:

Win meat packages, purchase tickets for raffle baskets
and 50/50 drawings, and play games.

Contact for Donations/Questions:

Reach out to Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@lclcenter.org or call 716-386-4125.

Women's Lunch/Fellowship

St John's Elma & Lancaster
Wed, November 18 @ 12pm @ Bruno's Restaurant
5259 Broadway, Lancaster NY Please sign up by Oct 30

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Chowderfest	9:00am- 12:00pm	Kitchen
Sunday School	10:00am	
Worship/Confirmations	10:00am	Sanctuary
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Trunk or Treat	4:00pm- 6:00pm	Parking Lot
YOUTH - Clean-Up & Party	6:30pm- 8:00pm	

Monday, October 26, 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
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Book Club	2:30pm	Chapel - Conference Area

Thursday, October 29, 2026

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

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Event	Time	Location
YOUTH: Escape Room	10:00am- 1:00pm	Young St, Tonawanda
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, November 1, 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

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

$12

DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT

St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086

Friendsgiving

November 29th @ 1-3pm

Youth Event

*Bring a Friend

*Bring a side to share

*RSVP by 11/22

Call or Text Kelly

716-868-3023

St John's Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086

'TIS THE SEASON

Salvation Army

Angel Tree

November 7th- December 6th

Take tag from tree
Replace with star
Purchase gift
Place unwrapped in gift bag
Tag securely attached
OR
Take envelope from tree
for monetary donation
Cash or check
to *Salvation Army*
Place in offering plate
Or turn in to Office

?'s call the Church Office

Deadline December 6th

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

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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.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed (*local places may be named*). Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (*especially* Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Rosie Cline, Marcus Moen, Joey, Teresa, and Donny). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. 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.