

# St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church Lancaster



## February Newsletter



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

# Good News

Rev. Jamie Retallack 848-9683

February 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.

### Table of Contents

Pastor's Message 3-5

Prayer List 6

Schedule/

Calendar 7-8

Announcements 9-15

Birthdays/ Anns. 16-17

Yellow Pages 18

### 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](mailto:stjohnslancater55@gmail.com)



A few weeks back we had to have the three trees in front of the church removed. They had unfortunately died and were beginning to become a hazard. It was fascinating watching them come down. A team of guys showed up with some trucks and some equipment and spent the morning removing them. By lunch time all that remained of those trees was a pile of wood chips where the stumps had been. It all happened so quickly. On the other hand since that day I've been paying more attention to those trees when I look at old photos of the church. Our paintings in the memorial lounge, the aerial photo in the sacristy hall, our old books from previous anniversaries, those trees are in all of them. My best estimate is that they were planted in the 40's and for the next 80 years they silently stood there, slowly growing. Through out the decades of photos you can see the trees grow, but of course the growth happened slowly over a long period of time. The trees growing and the trees coming down were both impressive events a seed growing into something so large is truly impressive. Removing those trees was also quite impressive, to remove something so large that has stood for so long. Of course taking the tree down was the far more dramatic and memorable event, it happened over the course of a few hours, it was here and then it was gone. I think we have a tendency to pay attention to the dramatic events and lose sight of the equally impressive events that happen to unfold over a longer period of time. We notice impressive events like Paul on the road to Damascus.

**ACTS 9-** Now as (Paul) was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. So Ananias (A follower of Jesus) went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Paul and said, “Brother Paul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized.

It's such a dramatic story of how Paul came to believe in Jesus. It takes only a paragraph to tell but is so moving. On the other hand the work Paul did throughout his ministry is even more impressive. He started Many Churches, Baptized many people, preached the Good News and helped all of us better understand what Jesus means in our lives. But that story is less dramatic, it happens over time and is simply Paul working steadily

to fulfill the call that he first heard when the heavens flashed and Jesus called out to him. I think that Paul is an excellent example of what that slow, steady, consistent work of the Faith can look like. It can remind us to focus on the long journey rather than just the memorable moments that crop up from time to time.

I think it's important for us to pause and focus on that slow steady work and to seek out new opportunities to fuel that growth in yourself. Perhaps that looks like beginning something new, joining choir, or council, or LYMA or WELCA. Maybe it looks like being an usher, deacon, communion assistant or reader. Maybe it looks like something new, something we haven't imagined yet. I don't know what that growth looks like for you but I do know God calls all of us to continue putting our faith into action, because when we do that slow steady growth gains new opportunity and blooms even brighter. I invite you to think about where God is calling you to grow.

Peace,

*Jamie*

# Prayer List

Known to be hospitalized or in need of prayers

Robert Schielfa

Katie Swanson

Hannah Wawrowski

George Tichy

Loraine Haap

Cindy Coons

Tom Kraemer

Dante Michael

Tanya Renkas

The Family & Friends of Brenda Aldof

## Deacons

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	RaeAnn Jakubowski/ Kathy Snyder
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Miller/ Kathy Konstabel
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Konstabel/ Kathy Snyder
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	RaeAnne Jakubowski/ Sam Miller
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Snyder/ Kathy Konstabel

## Acolytes

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nicholas Jacobs/Landyn Rogacki
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Graham/Anna Priester
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Russell Stranc/Cedar Willadsen
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Landyn Rogacki/Regina Cinotti
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Regina Cinotti/Miia Dembski

## Crucifers

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Russell Stranc/Cedar Willadsen
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Regina Cinotti/Miia Dembski
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha Gierlinger/Nicholas Jacobs
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Virginia Graham/Anna Priester
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Landyn Rogacki/Regina Cinotti

## Altar Guild

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cheryl Helwig/ Kathy Snyder
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Petrunyak/ Karen Freund
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Gerry Nowicki/ RaeAnn Jakubowski
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sharon Walker/ Carol Graham
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bunny Boteler/ Bev Hess

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

# 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

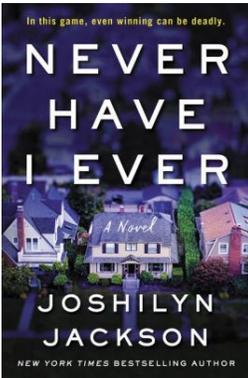
**JOYSINGERS** have begun rehearsals- we welcome all interested singers ages 3 and up. This group is open to individuals and families who would like to help us sing praises to the Lord. We rehearse most Sundays from 10:00-10:30am and we sing in church at either 9 or 10:30 about once a month from October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

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.



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.

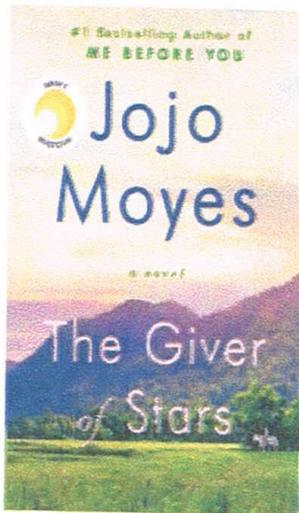
*In this game, even winning can be deadly...*

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!



## **Soup Fest: Saturday March 7th - 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an opportunity to savor a variety of homemade delicious soups and support the general life of our congregation at St. John's. Volunteers are asked to sign up to bring a crock of their favorite soup with any necessary toppings. Bread, crackers, and beverages will be provided. Donations of something "sweet" to finish the evening's meal are also encouraged. For additional fun, cast your ballot for your favorite soup and dessert. A nominal prize will be awarded to the winners. Share your recipe in advance and we will compile the submissions and make complementary copies available to any interested attendees. Given the wonderful assortment of flavorful soups over the years, we request that you make every effort to provide your recipes to the committee by March 1st. Sign-up sheets are available in the church office as well as the Chapel. To ensure that we have a sufficient supply of electrical outlets, please sign up as soon as possible. To avoid unnecessary confusion, it is very important that all soups be delivered to the Fellowship Hall by 4:30 PM on the day of the event. It would be most helpful, for planning purposes, if you could provide us with an estimated family attendance count as well. Entrance fees will be collected at the door. Adults - \$7.00 each; Children ages 8 to 12 - \$5.00 each; Children under 8 are free. Thank you for your support of our church. Any questions, contact Donna McGrew (685-1146) or Laura Rudz (683-1846).

# Council Corner

A message from Council members

Hello and welcome to Council Corner,

Our annual meeting was held on January 26, 2020 where the business of the church including budget review, approval and planning for future projects were discussed. Pastor Jamie provided an overview of our pipe organ including the history, the current construction and limitations and we began to discuss plans for future renovation. Council is grateful to all who attended and showed their support for the work we have completed and for being part of the plan for our future as we move forward under the leadership of Pastor Jamie.

Our year long celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary culminated in a well attended dinner at Ripa's where we welcomed back some of our previous interns, old friends and awarded Pastor John Scarafia with the honor of Pastor Emeritus. Many thanks to the 175<sup>th</sup> committee and to Pastor Jamie for all their efforts not only on this night but throughout the year to make our anniversary celebration so memorable.

As we continue to move forward into 2020 please consider serving St. Johns maybe in a “new” and different way than you have in the past. Opportunities abound including Men’s Club, WELCA, Deacon, Communion Assistants, Choir, Altar Guild just to name a few. Not sure? Spend a few minutes with Pastor talking about where you think you might be able to “plug in” and help make a difference not only for St. Johns but for your own spiritual growth as well!

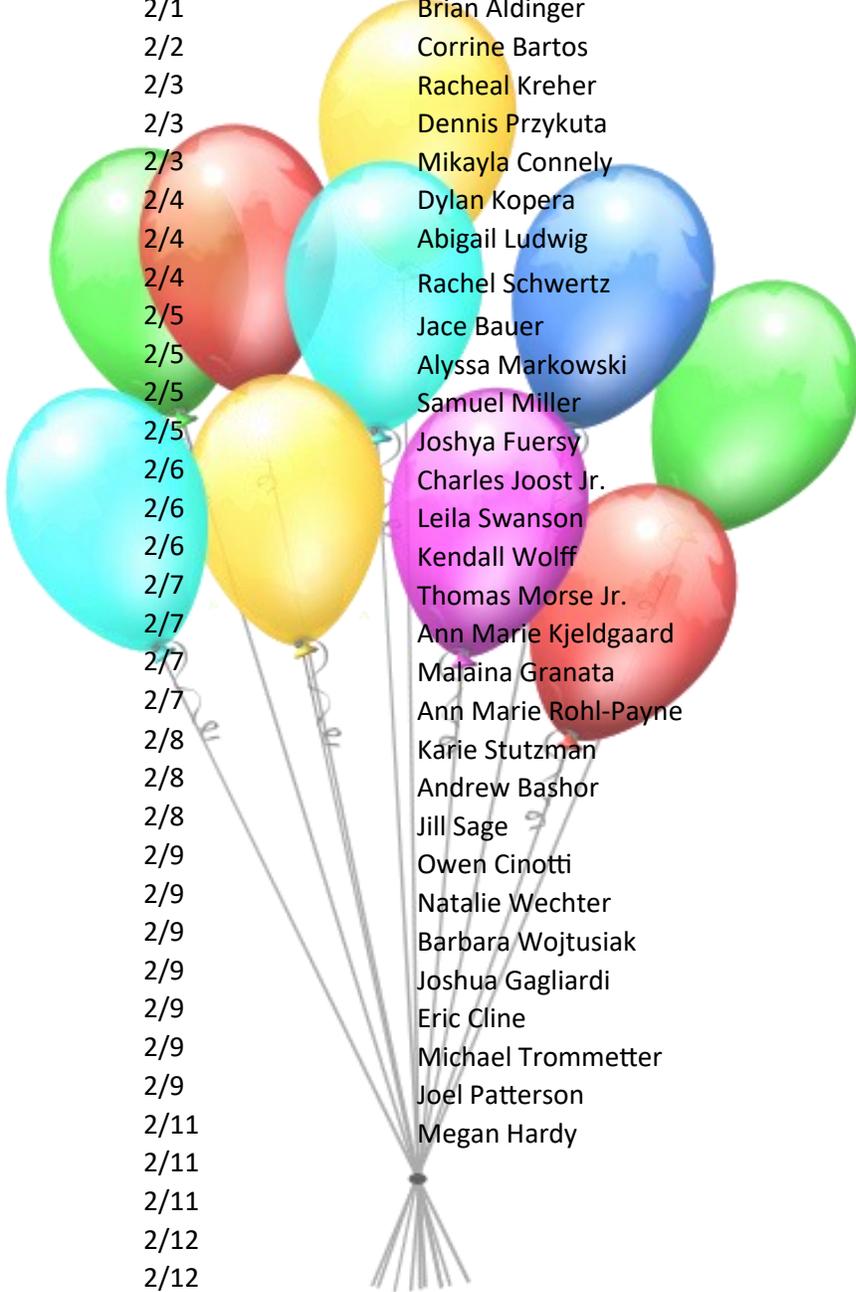
Council is feeling very positive about continuing to build on our foundation but also about all the opportunities for continued growth as well. This is a very exciting time for St. Johns and we are blessed to have all of your support.

Until next month,

Congregation Council

# Happy birthday

Time to celebrate



Stephen Andruchowsky	2/1	Eric Orban	2/12
Robert Priester	2/1	Aiden Valois	2/12
Colleen Santucci	2/1	Brian Aldinger	2/14
Eliza Kerwin	2/2	Corrine Bartos	2/14
Richard Burry	2/3	Racheal Kreher	2/14
Daniel DellaSala	2/3	Dennis Przykuta	2/14
Barbara Schmidt	2/3	Mikayla Connely	2/15
Brinley Fuller	2/4	Dylan Kopera	2/15
Michael Hammann	2/4	Abigail Ludwig	2/15
Marie Heine	2/4	Rachel Schwertz	2/15
Angelia Boggs	2/5	Jace Bauer	2/16
Aaron Trudell	2/5	Alyssa Markowski	2/17
Deanna Webber	2/5	Samuel Miller	2/17
William Webber	2/5	Joshya Fuersy	2/18
Kathleen Kansniak	2/6	Charles Joost Jr.	2/18
Ann Menzies	2/6	Leila Swanson	2/18
Daniel Rudz	2/6	Kendall Wolff	2/18
Kathryn Hammann	2/7	Thomas Morse Jr.	2/20
Adela Haurik	2/7	Ann Marie Kjeldgaard	2/21
Katelyn Poss	2/7	Malaina Granata	2/23
Donald Suarez	2/7	Ann Marie Rohl-Payne	2/23
Kevin Dudkowski	2/8	Karie Stutzman	2/23
Nicholas Jacobs	2/8	Andrew Bashor	2/24
Edward Miller	2/8	Jill Sage	2/24
Amber Burkhardt	2/9	Owen Cinotti	2/25
Mitchell Forbes	2/9	Natalie Wechter	2/25
Wendy Fritzen	2/9	Barbara Wojtusiak	2/25
Jonathan Otto	2/9	Joshua Gagliardi	2/26
Preston Payne	2/9	Eric Cline	2/27
Emily Rice	2/9	Michael Trommetter	2/27
Robert Viles	2/9	Joel Patterson	2/28
Susan Burgio	2/11	Megan Hardy	2/29
Donna Orlando-Martin	2/11		
Joshua Press	2/11		
Jacob Balcerzak	2/12		
Jamie Marsh	2/12		

# Anniversaries

Congrats to another year!

Richard & Janet Schafer      2/12

# Yellow Pages

and staff

## Yellow Pages

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

## Staff Members

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



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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