

# THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

SEPTEMBER 2026



## 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.



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



We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



## WORSHIP TIMES

SAT. 5:30PM

SUN. 10:00AM

IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

MON-WED-THURS (Lancaster)

TUES (Elma)

10:00AM-3:00PM

716-683-8972

STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM

STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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ST. JOHN'S 411





## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



My Son and I are 30 years apart in age. It's a nice round number that makes it easy to reflect back on. When he hits a milestone like going off to his first year of high-school, it's easy for me to think back on when I hit that milestone. What's more is that my Mom and I are thirty years apart as well, so when I was going off to high-school she was reflecting back 30 years just as I am doing now. The funny thing is when I was a kid going off to high-school in 1996 the things my Mom recalled from 30 years prior seemed ancient. Movies like *The Sound of Music*, and songs like *California Dreaming* by the Mamas and the Papas seemed like they were from the distant past. Now when I think back to 30 years ago, it doesn't seem so far away. Movies like *Independence Day* and songs like *The Macarena* don't feel that far away, I can still remember the cultural phenomenon both were. I suppose what I am trying to express is that a time span like 30 years really can go by faster than you realize. It's interesting then to think about the next 30 years as not that far away. Our congregations will look pretty different, I'll be retired, I suspect many of you will be too, and our children and grandchildren will be the ones running things and keeping the ministry of the Church going. We can never let the understanding that our children are the future drift too far from our mind. And it is with that in mind that we remember how important it is for us to care for the next generation and help them grow, give them every opportunity to experience Christ in their lives.

*Matthew 19: 13-15*

*Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.*

The kingdom belongs to them. There are so many ways to understand this. One way to understand it is, we are all like Children to God and we should approach the work of God with childlike innocence and wonder. It can serve as a reminder that salvation and inheriting the kingdom is not about our actions but about Jesus' actions because Jesus calls the children not because of what they have done but because we are all children of God. But also it is important to remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is not just a future reality it is something we are called to bring glimpses of into the present. We are called to make our present reality more and more like God's kingdom to come. That work of God, done by our hands will soon be the next generation's to lead. So it is important that we give them every opportunity today to prepare. Jesus continues to beckon them and says "Let the little children come to me".

This is why we invest so much time and energy into our youth and family ministries. This is why we advocate for outdoor ministries like LCLC so much. The work of our youth leaders and Sunday School teachers is truly the work of the kingdom. In both congregations our Sunday School resumes on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and our youth ministry programs and activities will be resuming as well. June of 2027 is the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis for our High-school aged youth, so expect to hear more about that as well. I truly thank the whole congregation for the way you have supported and continue to support our youth; they truly are the future of the Church.

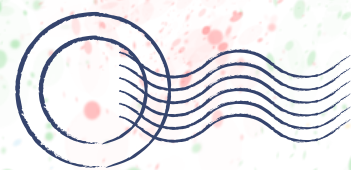
Peace,  
*Pastor Jamie*







# 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, September 30th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **THE CORRESPONDENT**, by Virginia Evans.

"Imagine, the letters one has sent out into the world, the letters received back in turn, are like the pieces of a magnificent puzzle. . . . Isn't there something wonderful in that, to think that a story of one's life is preserved in some way, that this very letter may one day mean something, even if it is a very small thing, to someone?"

Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, **THE CORRESPONDENT** is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the excessive pride of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

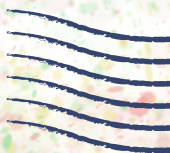
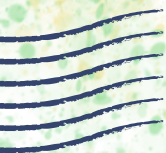
Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often, yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

Read this fiction award winning novel about the transformative power of the written word and the beauty of slowing down to reconnect with the people we love; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-correspondent-virginia-evans/1146138272?ean=9780593798430>





# September



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                                                                                  | Tuesday                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                           | Friday                              | Saturday                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30</b><br>10:00am In Person/ Online Service<br>1:00pm- 5:00pm Baby Shower - Jackson                                                                                       | <b>31</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>5:15pm LYMA Golf<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts                                              | <b>1</b><br>7:00pm NA Meeting                                                              | <b>2</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                                                              | <b>3</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                    | <b>4</b>                            | <b>5</b><br>5:30pm In Person Service                                       |
| <b>6</b><br>10:00am Worship/Baptism (Laurienzo)<br>11:05am Choir Practice<br>11:15am Confirmation Class                                                                      | <b>7</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>5:15pm LYMA Golf                                                                     | <b>8</b><br>7:00pm NA Meeting                                                              | <b>9</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>11:30am Women's BYO Lunch @ Lancaster<br>6:00pm Lancaster Garden Club<br>7:00pm LYMA Mtg. | <b>10</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                   | <b>11</b>                           | <b>12</b><br>8:30am LYMA - Mem Breakfast<br>5:30pm In Person Service       |
| <b>13</b><br>9:00am Bible Study<br>10:00am In Person/ Online Service<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:05am Choir Practice<br>11:30am Property & Grounds                        | <b>14</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>11:00am- 2:00pm Poppi's Pantry<br>5:00pm- 7:30pm Guiding Eyes<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts | <b>15</b><br><b>Good News Articles Due</b><br>9:30am- 1:30pm Quilters<br>7:00pm NA Meeting | <b>16</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                                                             | <b>17</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>6:30pm Handbell Practice                       | <b>18</b><br>6:30pm B*I*N*G*O Night | <b>19</b><br>12:30pm Congregational Care Meals<br>5:30pm In Person Service |
| <b>20</b><br>9:00am Bible Study<br>10:00am In Person/ Online Service<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Coffee Hour<br>11:05am Choir Practice<br>11:15am Confirmation Class | <b>21</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                                                        | <b>22</b><br>9:30am- 1:30pm Quilters<br>7:00pm NA Meeting                                  | <b>23</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours                                                                                             | <b>24</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>1:00pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm Handbell Practice | <b>25</b>                           | <b>26</b><br>5:30pm In Person Service                                      |
| <b>27</b><br>9:00am Bible Study<br>10:00am In Person/ Online Service<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:05am Choir Practice                                                      | <b>28</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>11:00am- 2:00pm Poppi's Pantry<br>5:00pm- 7:30pm Guiding Eyes<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts | <b>29</b><br>9:30am- 1:30pm Quilters<br>7:00pm Council Meeting<br>7:00pm NA Meeting        | <b>30</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>2:30pm Book Club                                                                         | <b>1</b><br>10:00am- 3:00pm Church Office Hours<br>1:00pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm Handbell Practice  | <b>2</b>                            | <b>3</b><br>5:30pm In Person Service                                       |

<https://www.stjohnslanc.org/calendar>





# UPCOMING SCHEDULES

## ALTAR GUILD

Amy & John  
Petrunkyak  
September 6, 2026  
RaeAnn Jakubowski  
Corinne Rudz  
September 13, 2026  
Sharon Walker  
Carol Graham  
September 20, 2026  
Nancy & John  
Scarafia  
September 27, 2026

## DEACONS

9/6/2026  
Kathy Snyder  
9/13/2026  
RaeAnn Jakubowski  
9/20/2026  
Kathy Snyder  
9/27/2026  
Kathy Konstabel

## USHERS

9/6/2026  
Rich Rice  
Daniel Rice  
9/13/2026  
Kathy Burr  
Linda Costa  
9/20/2026  
Greg Wildridge  
Dave Rice  
9/27/2026  
Janet Sincebaugh  
Rick Tomaszewski

## WEEKLY GROUPS / MEETINGS

Bible Study: Sundays @ 9am  
Joysingers: Sundays @ 9:30am  
Sunday School @ 10am  
Worship: Sundays @ 10am  
Choir: Sundays @ 11:05am  
Guiding Eyes: Mondays @ 5:00pm  
LYMA Golf Mondays @ 5:15pm  
Quilters: Tuesdays @ 9:30am  
NA: Tuesdays @ 7pm  
Handbell: Thursdays @ 6:30pm  
Worship: Saturdays @ 5:30pm

## EVENTS / MEETINGS

Choir Resumes: 9/6 @ 11:05am  
Confirmation 9/ 6 & 9/20 @ 11:15am  
Women's Lunch 9/9 @ 11:30am  
Garden Club: 9/9 @ 7pm  
LYMA Meeting: 9/9 @ 7:30pm  
LYMA Mem. Breakfast: 9/12 @ 8:30am  
Sun. Bible Study Resumes: 9/13 @ 9am  
Sunday School Resumes: 9/13 @ 10am  
Property & Grounds Comm.: 9/13 @ 11:30am  
Pantry 9/14 & 9/28 @ 11am  
Joysingers Resume: TBD  
BINGO: 9/18 @ 6:30pm  
Handbell Resumes: 9/17 @ 6:30pm  
Cong Care Meals 9/19 @ 12:30pm  
Coffee Hour: 9/20 @ 11am  
Council Meeting: 9/29 @ 7pm  
Book Club: 9/30 @ 2:30pm







# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning bible study will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM. This season we will be reading through the book of Romans. This will provide an opportunity to review what caused Martin Luther to challenge the church of his day and guides us as Lutheran Christians today. Come join us each Sunday at 9:00 AM before worship in the Memorial Lounge.

## POPPI'S PANTRY

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. As we head into the cooler weather, we need more help than ever to keep the shelves stocked. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Much needed: cereal, ready-to-eat meals and soups, canned meats, canned fruit, or anything sugar-free. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## RAMP FUND

The St John's Lutheran Young Men association is sponsoring a ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Please use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thank you very much & God Bless! LYMA

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thank you to all who made this season's Prayer Shawl Ministry happen: those who made the shawls, blankets, and hats, and those who donated yarn and gift cards. The ministry is ALWAYS in need of yarn, so donations are gratefully accepted during office hours or on Sundays. Thank you!

## SEPTEMBER WOMEN'S LUNCH / FELLOWSHIP 09/09/2026 @ 11:30 AM @ ST. JOHN'S LANCASTER

Our monthly lunch will be at St. John's Lancaster in the Fellowship Hall. Use the ramp to enter. Everyone is bringing their own lunch. We want to use this lunch to discuss our next service project. We are leaning towards school supplies for a local school and The Teacher's Desk which allows teachers from any district to go and get supplies they need. Looking forward to the fellowship and ironing out the details. We will also discuss how/if we want to continue our monthly breakfast/lunch going forward. Please reach out to Kathy Snyder with any questions.





# ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE

Arrangements for the altar are \$40 (for 2). You may request specific colors or flowers if desired, however there may be an additional charge if you would like larger arrangements or more expensive varieties of flowers. To dedicate flowers, please continue to use the envelopes provided at the church, Contact the church office by phone 716-683-8972 or by email at [stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com). All dedications must be submitted and paid for by the Monday before the dedication date in order to provide time to notify the florist.



## AVAILABLE ALTAR FLOWER DATES

September 6, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25



## PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:  
Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave,  
Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R.,  
Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster,  
Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvine,  
Kathy & Dave W., Pastor Erik Hart, Aaron,  
Tim Rogacki, and the family & friends  
of Michael Fellerger





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ALIVIA FUNK, SEP 2  
COLT BURRY, SEP 3  
JOANN THAESLER, SEP 4  
• HARVEY BEAL, SEP 4  
ANNA PRIESTER, SEP 6  
GARTH KRAEMER, SEP 6  
BONNIE SCHRAUFSTETTER, SEP 6  
• JAMES HEINE, SEP 6  
ANDREW GORDON, SEP 7  
MARK HARDY, SEP 7 •  
LILA FECHER, SEP 8  
CYNTHIA KRATHAUS, SEP 9  
ALEXA MITOLA, SEP 9  
ADAM WOJTUSIAK, SEP 10 •  
MARYLYNN CAMERON-KEMNA, SEP 11  
ALEXANDRA ALDINGER, SEP 11  
RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI, SEP 12  
MELODY JONES, SEP 13 •  
SANDRA HAUSER, SEP 13  
MELVINEA BUMMER, SEP 13  
RUSSELL GRANATA, SEP 13  
EMMA BUCK, SEP 13  
• SAMANTHA GIERLINGER, SEP 14  
• LINDSAY MILLER, SEP 14  
NICHOLAS REIF, SEP 15  
JANET ENGELBACH-SCHAFFER, SEP 16  
JOHN HAEFNER, SEP 16  
RANDY STANEK, SEP 16

KYLE GRAFF, SEP 17  
PATRICK MCGUIRE, SEP 17  
KAYDENCE LAVIS, SEP 18  
JAMES SALGE, SEP 18  
RUSSELL GRANATA, SEP 19  
THOMAS FORBES, SEP 19  
DANIEL RICE, SEP 19  
KATHY KONSTABEL, SEP 19  
GREGORY KWACZALA, SEP 19  
• MIIA DEMBSKI, SEP 20  
ERIN SHEEHAN, SEP 21  
KODIE BURNS, SEP 21  
• QUINN SALGE, SEP 21  
JUDITH FIORELLA, SEP 21  
GERALDINE LONG, SEP 22  
CHRISTINE HOFFMANN, SEP 23  
STEVEN III KOHLHAGEN, SEP 23  
KAREN MCGUIRE, SEP 24  
JONATHAN GILLEN, SEP 24  
SUSAN MCHALE, SEP 24  
AMY SHEEHAN, SEP 25  
JOHN SWANSON, SEP 25  
MADALYN MAYER, SEP 27  
ANTHONY MAKI, SEP 27  
JEANETTE FUERST, SEP 28  
KATHRYN SNYDER, SEP 28  
CORINNE RUDZ, SEP 29  
GENIE MADISON, SEP 30





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**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)**

**Rev. Jamie Retallack, Pastor 716-848-9683**

**Rev. John Swanson, Pastor Emeritus**

**Rev. John Scarafia, Pastor Emeritus**

**Dr. Vicky Chang, Director of Music**

**Cindy Jo Speth, Housekeeping**

**Michael Walker, Sexton**

**Donna McGrew, Financial Secretary**

**Melissa Dwyer, Church Secretary**

**Congregation Council**

**Janet Sincebaugh (President)**

**Carol Graham (Vice-President)**

**Karen McClintock (Secretary)**

**Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)**

**Pauline Bauer**

**Sam Gierlinger**

**RaeAnn Jakubowski**

**Jamie Kloc**

**Marjorie Kruger**

**Jeff Miller**

**Rich Rice**

**Paul Rudz**

**Kelly Sieracki**



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
55 PLEASANT AVE  
LANCASTER NY 14086-2173

# Back to School

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