

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

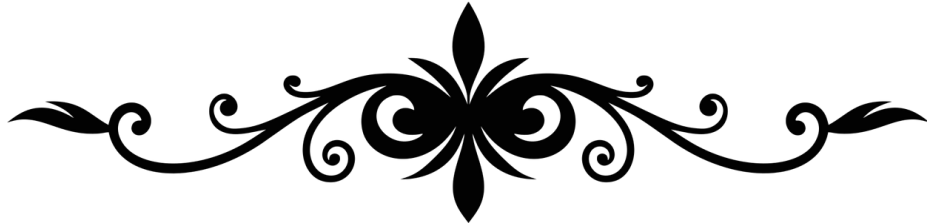


Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

23rd Saturday after Pentecost
Saturday, November 15, 2025

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

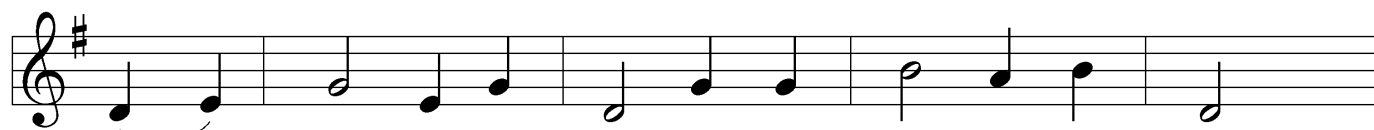
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence for Prayer & Confession

Faithful God,
**you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from
your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and
do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We
ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your
abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast
love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ
Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
you are set free. **Amen.**

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

The Prayer of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading
Malachi 4:1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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



Psalm 98 (*Read Responsively*)

Sing a new song to the Lord,
who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm
have won the victory.

**O Lord, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness
in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth
have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who comes to judge the earth.**

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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



The Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

The Gospel Reading
Luke 21:5-19
Glory to you, O God.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

ELW 713

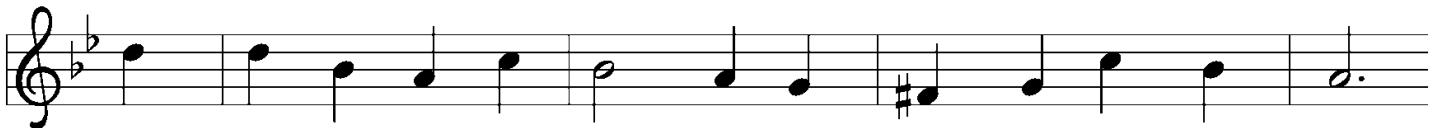
O God of Every Nation



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

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Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church,
the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters (especially). Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Bob Valois, Connie, and Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, and Michael Isherwood). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness (especially). Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
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

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

**We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God,
trusting in your grace and unyielding love;
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



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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The Offertory Prayer

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **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 gather at your table:

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

*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

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**



The Benediction

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908



The Sending
 Go in peace. Share the harvest.
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:

Melissa will have office hours here in Lancaster on Mon, Wed, and Thurs, from 10am to 3pm.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income
\$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday

Offering

11/9/2025

\$ 3616.00

40 Sundays thru SEPTEMBER '25 \$103,360.00

actual thru SEPTEMBER 2025 \$84,836.65

difference -\$18,523.35

Quarterly Statements are available upon request.

If you would like to receive quarterly statements in the mail, please sign up, or let the office know.

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!



Directory Updates: If you have not yet, please help us by finding your entry on the printed pages (either upstairs in the Narthex, or downstairs in the Chapel), and making corrections as necessary. Thank you!

Altar Guild: Sharon Walker & Carol Graham

Deacon: Kathy Snyder

Ushers: Linda Costa & Rick Tomaszewski

Available Altar Flower Dates:

Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

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

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Bob Valois, Connie, and Amanda Keneston and her daughters, Meredith, and Michael Isherwood

The **Food Pantry** will be serving residents of the Lancaster Towers on **Mondays from 11-2**. We are seeking volunteers to assist during this time. Kindly consider donating time to help with this new venture. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. For any questions, please contact Janet Sincebaugh @ (716) 651-4685. Thank you!

The goal has been reached for Thanksgiving Turkey dinners for the Food Pantry. THANK YOU for your generosity! The need continues, so if you are able, please add an item or two for the Food Pantry to your cart when you shop.

If you are hosting an event in our **Fellowship Hall**, please feel free to check our **sharing closet for supplies** (formerly known as the room across from the kitchen, the sacred closet, or that little room at the end of the back hall)! If you need it, and we have it, feel free to use it! If you do need to bring supplies, feel free to leave the leftovers behind to pass on to the next person.

It's **Angel Tree** time! Tags are available on trees upstairs and downstairs. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You may purchase the gift listed (or something similar), then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. **Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 7th.** There are also envelopes on the trees to donate cash or check (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place your envelope in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, call the church office or Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.

Bills Watch Party! Bring a snack, bring a friend, and join us on **November 16th at 1pm** to watch the Bills/Bucs game in the Youth Lounge! The game room will also be available for those who aren't as into football as Pastor!

St John's **LYMA Luncheon on Sat, November 22nd** from 12-2pm. A buffet in the Fellowship Hall will be catered by the Elma Town Grill: full 3- meat meal with sides and dessert. The cost is a donation of \$10 to benefit the food pantry.

Limited to 100 tickets. Call Gary Rudz @ 716-829-9618.

Please join us for "**The Hanging of the Greens,**" AKA decorating the church for Christmas, on **Sun. 11/24 after 10:00 am service**. There is no Bills game that day and many hands make light work. See Kathy Snyder with any questions.

Care Committee Cooking Date

the Care Committee will be cooking meals on **November 29th at 1pm** (this is a change from the originally scheduled date of 11/15). Anyone is welcome to join us in the kitchen! If you are unable to be there, but still want to help, we can always use donations to help purchase supplies.

BOOK CLUB: Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Tuesday (note change in the day of the week), **December 2nd at 2:30 PM** to discuss the novel, **THE LOST GIRLS OF WILLOWBROOK**, by Ellen Marie Wiseman.

The **Choir is looking for singers** to sing for Christmas. Practice is on Thursdays @ 7:30pm. Please join us!

Friendsgiving Youth Event: November 30th @ 1-3pm

Bring a friend. Bring a side to share.

RSVP by 11/28, call or text Kelly @ 716-868-3023

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, 2026, following the 10am worship service. We look forward to your participation!

Melissa plans to be on vacation the weeks of Christmas and the New Year. The Church Office will be closed. Bulletins for the holidays and the two Sundays after Christmas will be printed ahead of time. If there are any announcements you need in the holiday or post-holiday bulletins, please get them to the office as soon as possible (email is best). The most current prayer list/s will be included at the time of printing. We will put together a final announcement/prayer page on the 18th of December to supplement the already printed bulletins. If you have any announcements or prayers after Dec. 18th, please let Pastor know so he can add them to be announced verbally. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Melissa by phone or email.

St. John's Elma & Lancaster Women Fellowship & Christmas Gift Exchange will be on **Wednesday 12/03/2025 @ 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lancaster. All women are welcome to join us for fellowship, fun, and Christmas cheer. Please extend the invitation to your family and friends as well.

We will have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 pm followed by the crazy gift exchange.

We ask you bring a \$10 wrapped/bagged gift for the exchange, which involves lots of laughs as ladies either select an unopened gift or choose to "steal" one already open.

If you can please bring a dish to pass for dinner; only if you want to. It can be a main dish, side dish or dessert; whatever you decide I am sure we will all be well fed. Coffee and punch will be provided.

A dish to pass is appreciated but not required; we want you to join us.

The same goes if you just want to join for dinner and fellowship and be an observer for the gift exchange; you are welcome as well. Plenty of fellowship and Christmas cheer to go around.

Sign-up sheets will be available at both churches so we can have the fellowship hall all set up.

The deadline to sign up is Sunday 11/30/2025; but if you forget, please come anyway, we will make it work.

Any questions please contact Kathy Snyder @ 716-583-1061, and we look forward to some Christmas fellowship.

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Coffee Hour	11:00am	Memorial Lounge
Worship & Music Committee	11:00am	
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
Family Fun - Bills Watch Party	1:00pm	

Monday, November 17, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Guiding Eyes	4:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Asphalt Project		
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Asphalt Project		
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	Balcony
Choir Practice	7:30pm	Choir Room

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Guiding Eyes	10:00am - 1:00pm	Memorial Lounge
LYMA Luncheon	12:00pm - 2:00pm	Fellowship Hall
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Decorate Church for Christmas	11:15am	



Please join the Young Men's group in a
St John's LYMA Luncheon



Sat. November 22th Noon – 2pm

Buffet in the Fellowship Hall

Catered by Elma Town Grill

Full 3 Meat Meal w/Sides & Dessert

Donation \$10 to benefit the **Food Pantry**

LIMITED to 100 TICKETS

Contact Gary Rudz 716-829-9618



Friendsgiving



November 30th @ 1-3pm

Youth Event

***Bring a Friend**

***Bring a side to share**

***RSVP by 11/28**

Kelly 716-868-3023

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





Women's Christmas Fellowship

Wednesday December 3rd @ 5-9pm



Fellowship: All Are Welcome!



Pot Luck: Bring a Dish to Share

Gift Exchange: Bring a Wrapped \$10 Gift



St. John's Lancaster 55 Pleasant Ave.

716-683-8972



LYMA CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH

6PM COCKTAILS * 7PM DINNER

@ Skoob's Village Grille

50 Central Ave, Lancaster



\$30 PER PERSON - ALL ARE WELCOME!

CONTACT GARY RUDZ 716-829-9618





'TIS THE
SEASON

Salvation Army
Angel Tree

November 8th- December 7th

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 Carol 716-861-1619



Deadline December 7th

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	Jeff Miller
Sam Gierlinger	Rich Rice
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Paul Rudz
Jamie Kloc	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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