

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

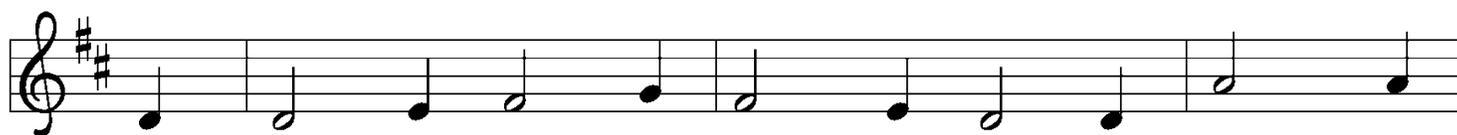
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022

The Prelude
The Greetings
The Invocation

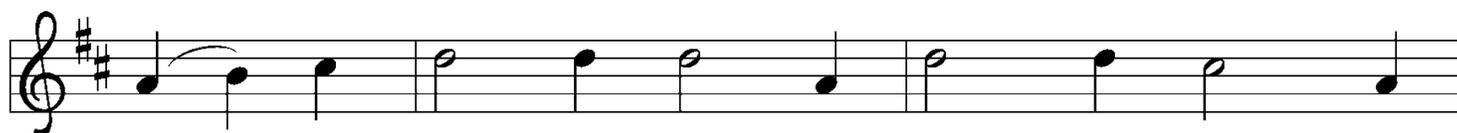
Opening Hymn

ELW 249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch, a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on + Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

The Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and 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 Hymn of Praise



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
(Read Responsively)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Amen. Amen

The Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 3:1-12
Glory to you, O God.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

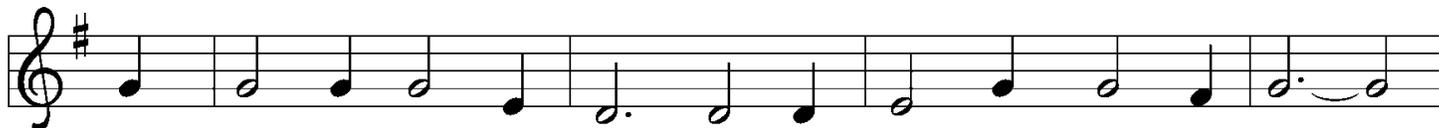
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (local examples may be named). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (especially Elliana Meyers, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Tom Donhauser, Bernie Lewis, Gloria Richards, Aspen Dantzer, Dennis Spanitz, and the family and friends of Albert “Big Al” Kurek). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.
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, hear our prayer.

...God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Offertory Music

The Offertory Hymn



- 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.

The Offertory Prayer

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

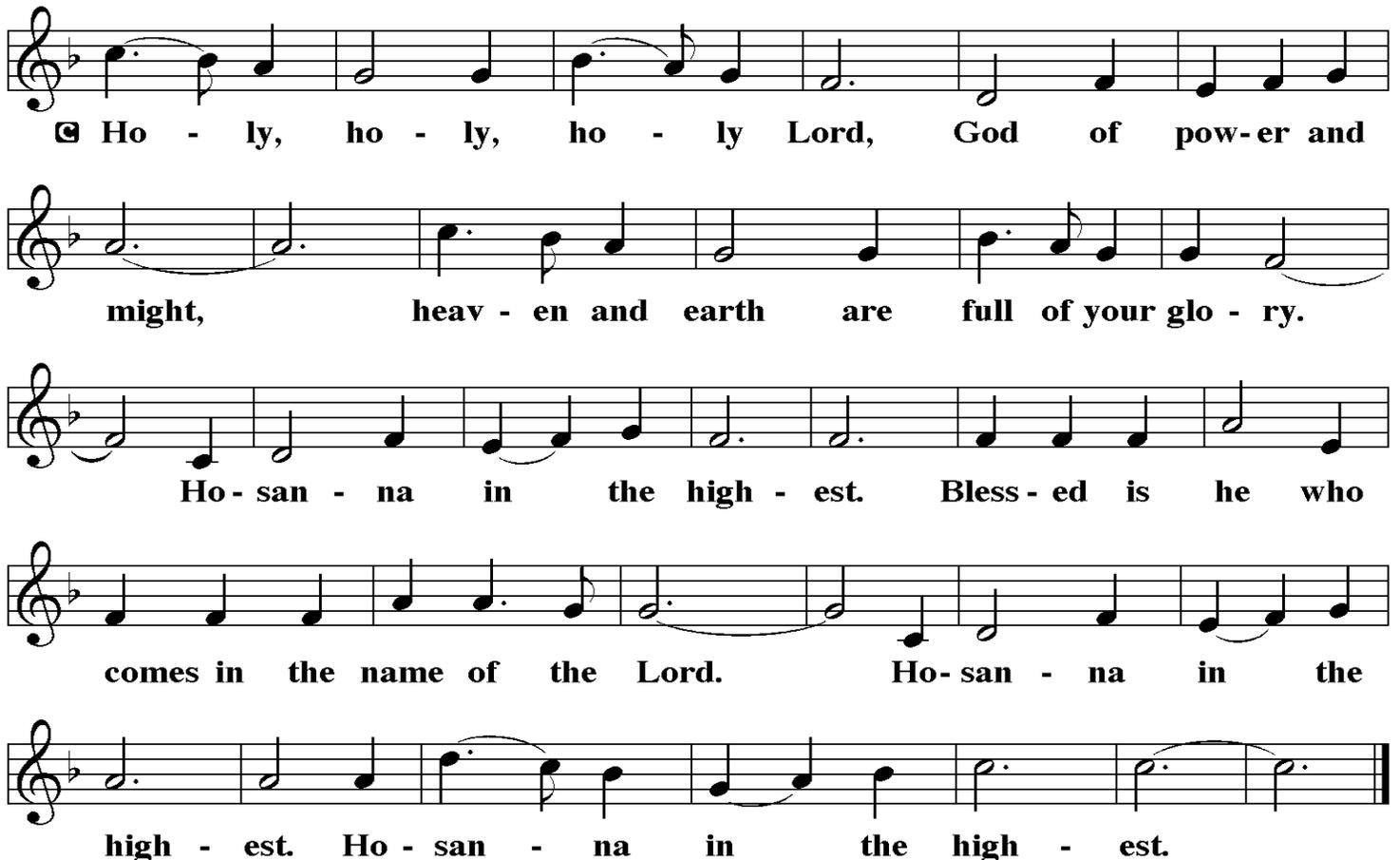
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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



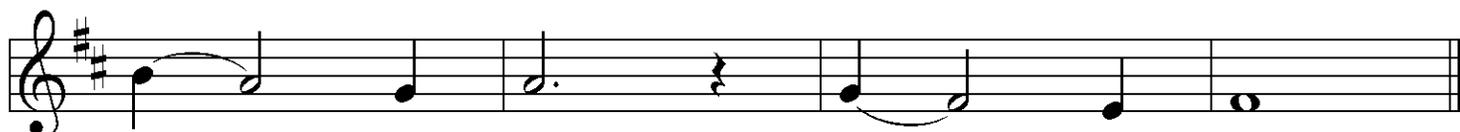
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

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

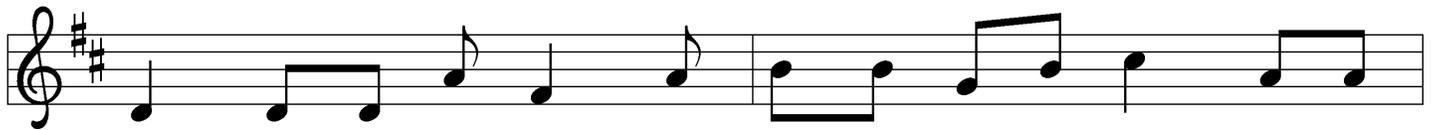
Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction

All Earth Is Hopeful



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
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The Sending
 Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You to 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.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday	12/4	9:00am	In person/Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	12/4	10:00am	Joysingers
Sunday	12/4	10:30am	In person/Streamed Service
Monday	12/5	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	12/5	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	12/6	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	12/6	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	12/7	6:00pm	Garden Club Xmas Party
Thursday	12/8	1:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	12/8	6:30pm	Handbell Practice
Thursday	12/8	7:00pm	Book Club
Thursday	12/8	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday	12/9	7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Saturday	12/10	5:30pm	In person Service
Sunday	12/11	9:00am	In person/ Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	12/11	10:00am	Joysingers
Sunday	12/11	10:30am	In person/ Streamed Service

Altar Flower Arrangements are \$30 (for 2). Available dates: 12/11, 1/1, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19

We lift up Elliana Meyers, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Tom Donhauser, Bernie Lewis, Gloria Richards, Aspen Dantzer, Dennis Spanitz, and the family & friends of Albert “Big Al” Kurek.

BOOK CLUB

Please join us on Thurs, Dec. 8th at 7:00 PM to discuss Rebecca Morrow’s novel, CORINNE. Read this modern-day Romeo and Juliet tale, then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends & guests welcome!

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 to St. John’s Lutheran!



We are again participating in **The Salvation Army Angel Tree** program, bringing joy to children this Christmas season! Please take a tag from the tree and replace it with a star. You can purchase the gift listed (or something similar) and then place presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. Gifts should be returned to church **by Sunday, Dec. 11th!** Additional gifts may be purchased. The greatest need is for infant toys and board games for 10-12 year-olds. Envelopes are hanging on the trees for cash or check donations (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place in the offering plate. Let’s continue to share our blessings! If you have questions, call Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.

The flowers on the altar this week are in honor of her grandson Josh Hoffman's birthday from Gloria Jakubowski.

Offering Envelopes are now available for pick-up in the Memorial Lounge. Stop in and get yours today!

Collecting Dash's Register Receipts Save your Dash's receipts and deposit them in the boxes in the Memorial Lounge or the Chapel to benefit Niagara Lutheran Health Services

11/27/2022

\$3399.00

Altar Guild

Amy Petrunyak & Karen Freund

Deacons

9am Sam Miller

10:30am Kathy Snyder

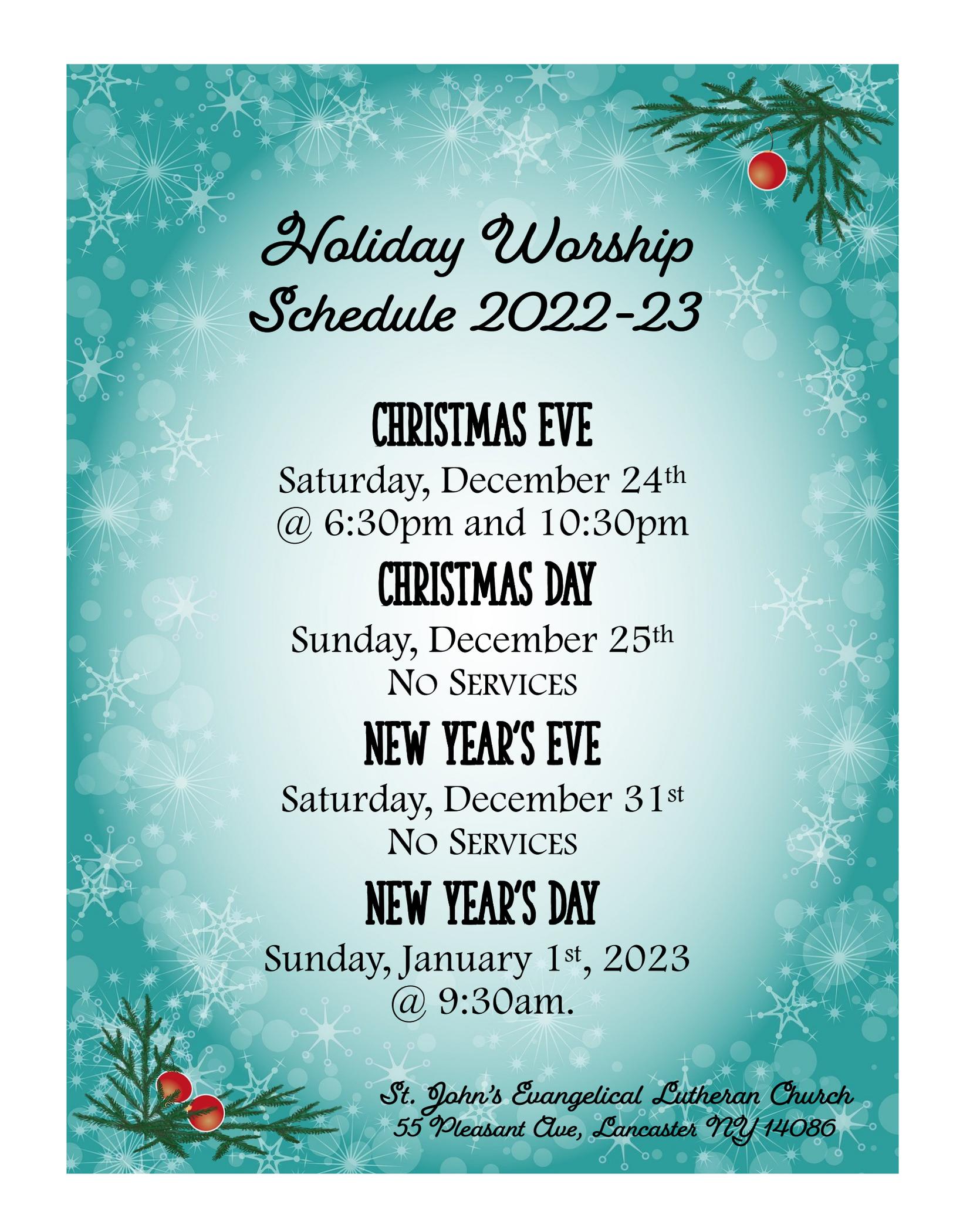
Ushers

9am Rich Rice & Greg Wildridge

10:30am Bev Hess & Carol Graham

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
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Holiday Worship Schedule 2022-23

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24th
@ 6:30pm and 10:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25th
NO SERVICES

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday, December 31st
NO SERVICES

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday, January 1st, 2023
@ 9:30am.



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