

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

JUNE 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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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Semiquincentennial! That's the fancy name for a 250th anniversary, which of course our country celebrates this summer. It is the 250th anniversary of these words from the Declaration of Independence: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men"*. In other words, all of our natural human rights come from God, and are intrinsic to everyone. The government's responsibility, therefore, is not to grant these rights, but to protect them. The Continental Congress recognized that England and the King were acting as if they were the granter of rights and would abridge the rights of those in the colonies as suited their needs. So it was that a new Country was born with the express goals of recognizing that all people are equal and to protect the rights of those people. Those lofty ideals have never been fully lived into.

When the U.S. voted for its first president, only 6% of the population was able to vote. You had to be a white land-owning male to cast a vote, and in many states a profession of a particular denomination of the Christian faith was necessary as well. First the religious tests fell away, then property ownership, then skin color and at last in 1920 women's suffrage was granted. But of course true equality wasn't achieved in 1920, there were still battles to fight over Jim Crow, gender equality, and more. To this day it seems just about everyone would continue to agree that not everyone is treated equally. We may not all agree on who is advantaged and who is disadvantaged and to what extent, but all political sides still point to a group they identify as disadvantaged and a group they identify as advantaged.

I don't intend this to be a negative article, quite the contrary, it is one of hope and encouragement. Sure we recognize that there is room to grow in our ideals, and we recognize that we have never fully lived into them, but we can also clearly see the trajectory of growth. At 250, I see a nation that has continually striven to do better, to live into what we profess, and to reclaim and rededicate ourselves to those ideals. It is the same journey we take with our faith in our lives.

We never "perfect our faith". We never know all there is to know about God, we are never perfect in discerning how the spirit is calling us, or where Christ is leading us. But rather as Paul writes in Colossians 2: 6,7:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."*

If someone were to tell you they were done growing in their faith, learning about God, deepening their relationship with Christ, you would find that more distressing than uplifting. Sure we understand the task we are called to, to love God and love our neighbor, but the journey of life is a journey of growing into that ideal more fully.

So this summer as we celebrate 250 years, I invite you to look to the past and celebrate what has been, and I invite you to look to the future in hope of what yet may be. While you do, I call you to do the same with your journey with God: look with thanksgiving upon the past, and look to the future in hope and anticipation!

Peace,

Pastor Jamie



BOOK CLUB



Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster on Wednesday, June 24th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **THE KEEPER OF HAPPY ENDINGS** by Barbara Davis.

Soline Roussel is well schooled in the business of happy endings. For generations her family has kept an exclusive bridal salon in Paris, where magic is worked with needle and thread. It's said that the bride who wears a Roussel gown is guaranteed a lifetime of joy. But devastating losses during World War II leave Soline's world and heart in ruins and her faith in love shaken. She boxes up her memories, stowing them away, along with her broken dreams, determined to forget.

Decades later, while coping with her own tragic loss, aspiring gallery owner Rory Grant leases Soline's old property and discovers a box containing letters and a vintage wedding dress, never worn. When Rory returns the mementos, an unlikely friendship develops, and eerie parallels in Rory's and Soline's lives begin to surface. It's clear that they were destined to meet—and that Rory may hold the key to righting a forty-year wrong and opening the door to shared healing and, perhaps, a little magic.

Read this intriguing tale full of love and loss; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-keeper-of-happy-endings-barbara-davis/1138958590?ean=9781542021470>





June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	2 7:00pm NA Meeting	3 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	4 8:30am Court St Bike Bus 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	5	6 5:30pm In Person Service
7 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	8 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am - 2:00pm Poppi's Pantry 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	9 7:00pm NA Meeting	10 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 6:00pm Lancaster Garden Club 7:00pm LYMA Mtg.	11 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	12 8:30am Court St Bike Bus	13 5:30pm In Person Service
14 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 11:15am Confirmation Class 11:30am Property & Grounds	15 Good News Articles Due 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	16 7:00pm NA Meeting	17 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	18 8:30am Court St Bike Bus 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	19 6:30pm B*I*N*G*O Night	20 12:30pm Congregational Care Meals 5:30pm In Person Service
21 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 11:00am Coffee Hour	22 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:00am - 2:00pm Poppi's Pantry 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	23 7:00pm NA Meeting	24 8:30am Court St Bike Bus 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	25 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	26	27 5:30pm In Person Service
28 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 11:15am Confirmation Class	29 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	30 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	2 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	3	4 5:30pm In Person Service

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

SCHEDULES & EVENTS

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Walker
Carol Graham
June 7, 2026
Nancy & John
Scarafia
June 14, 2026
Kathy Snyder
June 21, 2026
Amy & John
Petrunyak
June 28, 2026

DEACONS

6/7/2026
Kathy Konstabel
6/14/2026
RaeAnn Jakubowski
6/21/2026
Kathy Snyder
6/28/2026
Kathy Konstabel

USHERS

6/7/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Dave Rice
6/14/2026
Kathy Burr
Daniel Rice
6/21/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Rick Tomaszewski
6/28/2026
Janet Sincebaugh
Rich Rice

Poppi's Pantry

is serving this congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2, beginning June 8th. Please consider donating time to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. As we prepare to move into our beautiful, larger Pantry, we need more help than ever to fill the shelves. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Most needed: cereal, ready-to-eat meals (chili, stew, etc.), canned meats, canned fruit (regular or single-serving), or anything sugar-free. Thank you for helping to feed those who are experiencing food insecurity!

Women's Fellowship Lunch

Our monthly lunch on Wednesday, June 10th @ 11:30am will be at St. John's Lancaster in the Fellowship Hall. Use the ramp to enter. Everyone is bringing their own lunch, and a couple of ladies will be bringing desserts for us to enjoy. In addition to your lunch, we ask if you can bring a T-shirt and scissors. After eating we will make some cloth bags. Quite easy to do and instructions/guidance will be provided. We will use these bags to put in the socks collected and if we have extra bags we will give to Poppi's Pantry for folks to use. We can also discuss if we want to do another project, and when our next lunch/breakfast will be. How often and when we might want to continue to do this.

Please bring your suggestions and if you have any questions contact Kathy Snyder.

Save the Date

July 12th @ Lancaster after worship.

A small reception will be held to honor Pr. Jamie's 15 year Ordination Anniversary

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on Friday, June 19th 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 for anyone who doesn't bring their own!

Congregation Care Committee

will be meeting to cook on June 20th at 12:30pm. We are usually done in about 2 hours.

Please join us! Everyone is welcome and all help is appreciated!





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. 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

June 7, 14, 21, 28

July 5, 19, 26



PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:
Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast,
Arden Kruger, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce,
Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake,
Gloria Richards, Susan Thaesler,
Judy Reynolds, Pastor Erik Hart, and
the family and friends of Ron Richards



Happy Birthday

KYLA McHALE, 06-01
ERIC KENNEDY, 06-03
FELICIA LINDAUER, 06-03
ANNABELLE LUDWIG, 06-03
DEBBIE ISHERWOOD, 06-04
DANIEL McHALE, 06-04
LAURA RUDZ, 06-04
NANCY SCARAFIA, 06-04
DONNA McGREW, 06-05
ALANAH RZEZNIK, 06-05
LINDA JEAN BUDD, 06-06
LANDYN ROGACKI, 06-07
NORMAN ROSENTHAL, 06-08
McKENZEE JOOST, 06-09
DANIEL REIF, 06-09
KIM MILLER, 06-09
GINGER BOOTH, 06-10
AMANDA SIERACKI, 06-11
JENNA RICE, 06-11
COLLIN RICE, 06-11
MARGARET NESTER, 06-12
COLLIN CARNEY, 06-12
SHANNON KIENER, 06-12
JUSTIN HAEFNER, 06-13
RUBEY TOMASZEWSKI, 06-14

VIRGINIA GRAHAM, 06-19
LAWRENCE ARTH, 06-19
EMBER GORDON, 06-21
MARION HANSON, 06-22
KAREN BURRY, 06-22
EMMA HARRINGTON, 06-23
ELLA GALANTE, 06-23
ADAM MASSINO, 06-23
THOMAS SIERACKI, 06-23
DAKOTA REUKAUF, 06-23
THOMAS FREUND, 06-23
SIRKKA HARSTAD, 06-24
ARIANNA DURKIN, 06-24
VALERIE KENNEDY, 06-25
GARRETT GACZEWSKI, 06-26
MARK FRONCZAK, 06-26
JAKE KIENER, 06-26
DONALD JR. HAUSER, 06-27
RICHARD TOMASZEWSKI, 06-27
LINDA DiROSA, 06-28
ELIZABETH BURRY, 06-28
ALAN RUFFNER, 06-28
GLORIA JAKUBOWSKI, 06-29
GRANT PEITA, 06-30
HUDSYN ROGACKI, 06-30



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

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Rev. Jamie Retallack, Pastor 716-848-9683

Rev. John Swanson, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Scarafia, Pastor Emeritus

Teresa O'Connor, Vicar

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



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*If anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; look,
new things have come into being!*

2 Corinthians 5:17