

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



Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

17th Saturday after Pentecost
Saturday, September 19, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love
into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

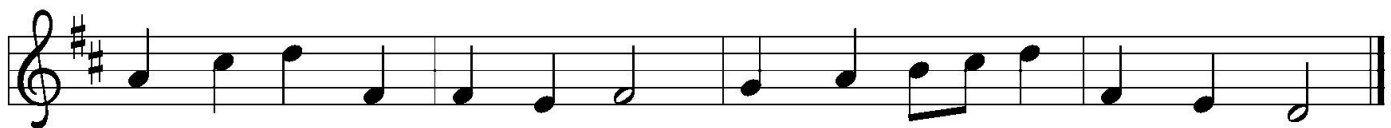
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and
in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and
bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking
justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn
our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one
another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in
whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of
eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Take My Life, That I May Be

- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*The Prayer of the Day*

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading
Jonah 3:10–4:11

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.

And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Psalm 145:1-8 (NRSV) *Read Responsively*

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 20:1-16
Glory to you, O God.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

LBW 469

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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.
Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and
whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Gathering of the Gifts

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.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

The Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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 join their unending hymn:



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...

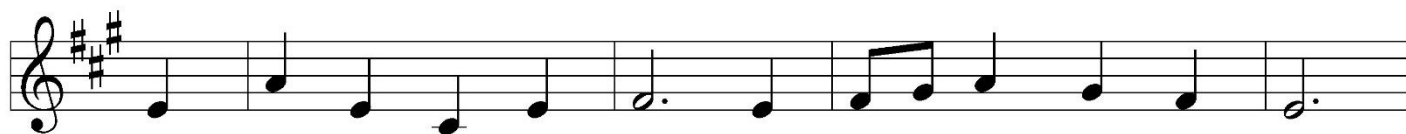
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory;
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending Prayer

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



The Benediction

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress



The Sending

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
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.

Altar Guild: Sharon Walker & Carol Graham

Deacon: Kathy Snyder

Ushers: David Rice & Greg Wildridge

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!



Offering **Quarterly Statements available upon request.**

9/13/2026

\$2132.00

If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

Family Promise - Donations Needed

Family Promise of WNY is an organization that works to prevent and end homelessness for families with children. St. John's will be collecting household items for their housewarming starter kit. Possible donations include any new or very gently used item that would be useful in an apartment. There are lists of suggestions at church. We hope to give Family Promise a wide variety of items! Donations can be brought in until October 18th and placed in the pews by the altar. Thank you!

**The Women of St. John's Lancaster & Elma
would like your help to collect
school supplies for The Teacher's Desk.**

The Teacher's Desk is a store, located at 22 Northampton Street Buffalo, NY 14209, where teachers shop free for school supplies, books, and teacher resources for students in 250 WNY schools. Its mission is to distribute free school supplies to students in need, to encourage teachers, and to provide purpose through volunteerism.

Boxes/baskets will be available at church to drop off any supplies collected. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Snyder. We will be collecting over the next several weeks and appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

List of supplies:

Tissues (full size boxes or small packs)

Pens, pencils, crayons, colored markers, highlighters

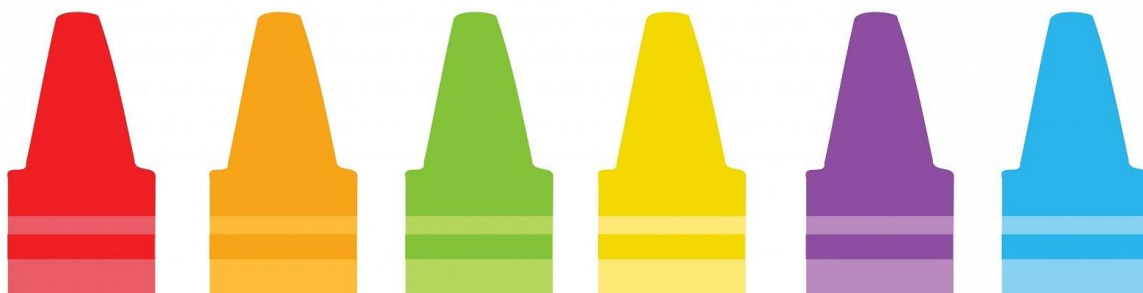
Elmer's Glue & glue sticks

Spiral notebooks (8 ½ X 11 and smaller size)

Hand sanitizer

Personal care items:

**Combs, individually packed shampoo/creme rinse,
toothbrush, and travel size toothpaste**



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.

October Women's lunch/fellowship –
10/14/2026 @ 11:30 am @ Olive Tree

We lift up: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Aaron, Tim Rogacki, Amber Burkhardt, and Loretta Battaglia.

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

Altar Flower Arrangements:

Flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2).

Available Flower Dates: Sept 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

Save the Date

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner 2026

Tuesday, November 3rd from 4-7pm

Your generosity is very much appreciated! Gift cards from Amazon and Walmart are still needed to help provide for Paul's care. Envelopes are available around the church. Feel free to include a message to Paul. Prayers are always appreciated. Thank you!

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. Thank you!

Poppi's 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

Sunday Morning Bible Study resumes 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.

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on Friday, October 18th 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

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Coffee Hour	11:00am	Memorial Lounge
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
YOUTH - Pizza/Game Night	6:30pm- 8:00pm	

Monday, September 21, 2026

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

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am- 1:30pm	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

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

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs

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
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Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer	Jeff Miller
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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Bible Passages unless otherwise noted: New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (**NRSVUE**)
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Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially* Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Aaron, Tim Rogacki, Amber Burkhardt, and Loretta Battaglia). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.