

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



Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Second Saturday in Lent
Saturday, February 28, 2026

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 before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

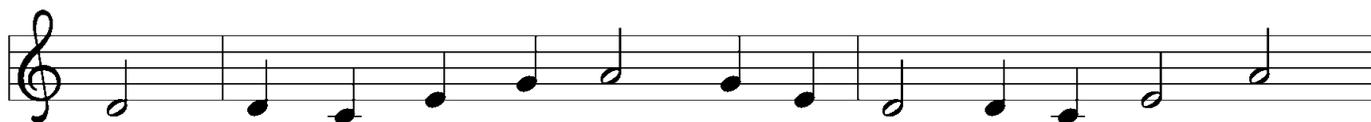
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

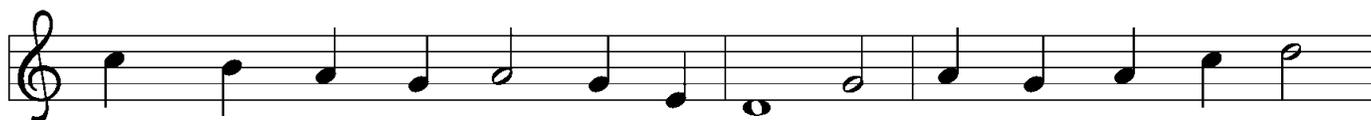
Opening Hymn

LBW 385

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

The Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The First Reading Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121
(Read Responsively)

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**



The Second Reading
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Lenten Gospel Acclamation



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17
Glory to you, O God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that who ever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack



Hymn of the Day

ELW 660

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,
let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages (like George Herbert whom the church remembers today), give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Ian Nowicki, Pat Spanitz, Jenny Gozdziaak, Pastor Erik Hart, Donna Parr, Alice, Sandy Wiess, Shirley Hellenbach, and Tom Lafferty). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (especially) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (especially). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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

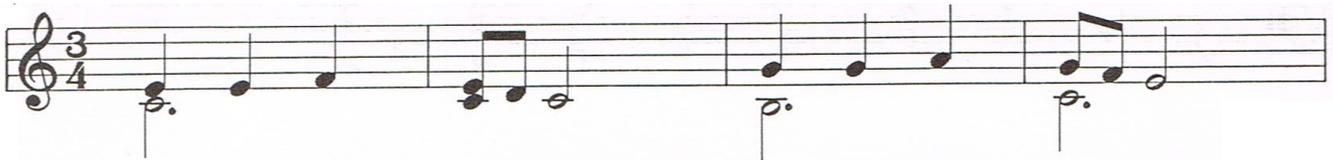
Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

**Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.**

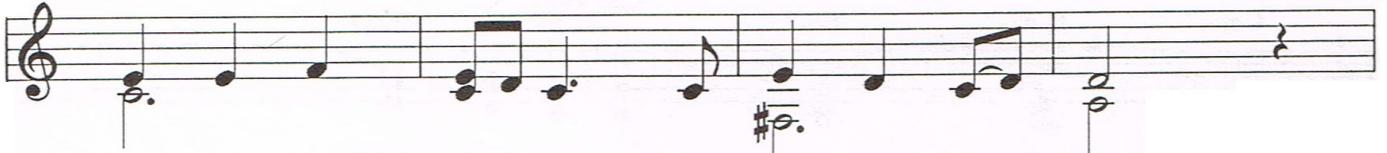
The Sharing of the Peace

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

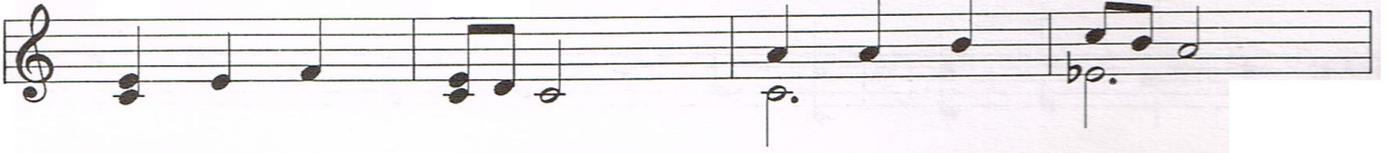
The Offertory Hymn



1. Meek - ness and maj-es-ty, man - hood and De - i - ty,
2. Fa - ther's pure ra - di-ance, per - fect in in - no - cence;
3. Wis - dom un - search-a - ble, God, the in - vis - i - ble;



in per - fect har - mo - ny, the Man who is — God.
Yet learns o - be - di - ence to death on a — cross.
Love in - de - struct - i - ble in frail - ty ap - pears.



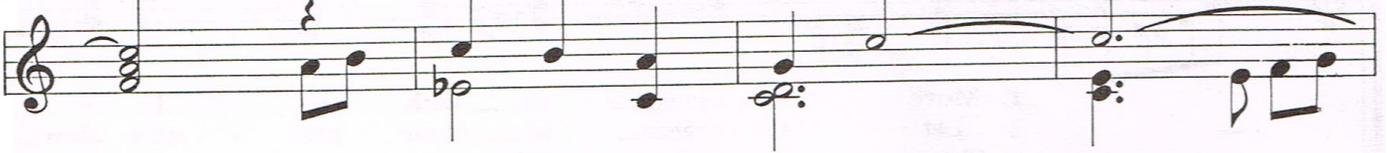
Lord of e - ter - ni - ty, dwells in hu - man - i - ty;
Suf - f'ring to give us life, con - quering through sac - ri - fice;
Lord of in - fin - i - ty, stoop - ing so ten - der - ly;



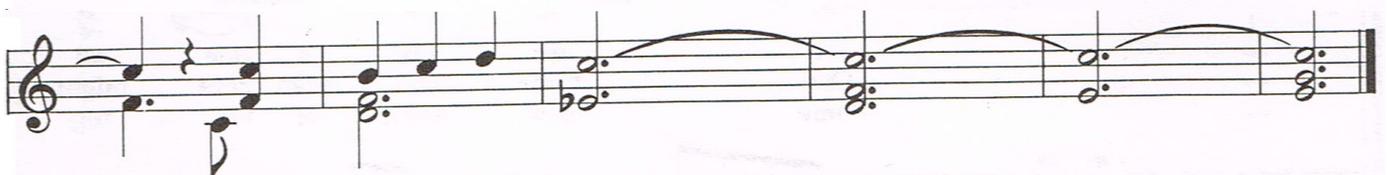
Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty — and — wash - es our feet.
And as they cru - ci - fy — prays, — "Fa - ther, for - give."
Lifts our hu - man - i - ty — to the heights of His throne.



O what a mys - ter - y, meek - ness and maj - es - ty;



Bow down and wor - ship,



for this is your God.

The Offertory Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. Believe the good news.

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:

St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.

St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Offering

2/22/2026

\$ 2380.50

Quarterly Statements available upon request.

If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please 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!



B*I*N*G*O NIGHT

We had so much fun playing Bingo that we're doing it again! Join us on Wednesday, March 18th in the Fellowship Hall (Lancaster) for fun, fellowship and goofy prizes! Doors open at 630pm - bingo starts at 7:00pm. Bingo chips, drinks and snacks will be available for anyone who doesn't bring their own!

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslancaster)

Altar Flower Arrangements:
as of **January 1, 2026**, flower arrangements are **\$40 (for 2)**.

Available Flower Dates: Mar 8, 22, 29

Altar Guild: John & Nancy Scarafia
Deacon: Kathy Konstabel
Ushers: Janet Sincebaugh & Rick Tomszewski

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Ian Nowicki, Pat Spanitz, Jenny Gozdziaak, Pastor Erik Hart, Donna Parr, Alice, Sandy Wiess, Shirley Hellenbach, and Tom Lafferty.

New Choir Practice Time
Choir will now practice on Sundays 11:05-11:20am.
All are welcome to join!

Women's Group Lunch
will be at Olive Tree on Wed, Mar 11 at 11:30.
Please sign up by Mar 8.

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

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, March 25th @ 2:30 PM to discuss the inspiring true story, **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT**, by Daniel James Brown.

YOUTH EVENTS

March 3, 4:00 – 8:00pm	Optional: Burrito project with Zion youth. Transportation provided from St. John's.
March 7, 10:00am – 2:00pm	FUND RAISER! Join in the fun in making cinnamon buns. You will be able to sample your work. Lunch provided, games during work breaks.
March 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm	Sell cinnamon buns before and after church service. Run coffee hour after service with cinnamon bun samples and fruit. Socialize with members of congregation.
March 22, 10:00 – 11:00am	Fill Easter eggs for Easter egg hunt. Discuss plans for Palm Sunday breakfast and Easter egg hunt that follows service.
March 29, 8:00 – 9:30am	Serve breakfast to congregation, family and public. -----
11:00am – 12:00pm	Assist with Easter egg hunt.

Poppi's Pantry is extremely grateful for all donations. If you are looking for donation ideas, you may want to consider: cereal/oatmeal, canned meats (chicken, spam), canned meals (Hash, Dinty Moore stew), pasta sauce (including Alfredo) and single serving pudding and/or gelatin cups (including sugar free), Thank you!

Directory Updates: If you have not yet, please help us by submitting to the office any changes to your records: name, phone number/s, address, etc. Thank you!



ST. PATTY'S DAY DINNER

**@ St. John's Lancaster: 55 Pleasant Ave.
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Vegetables/Bread & Butter**

Sunday, March 15th @ 11am

\$5 Dinner Reserve - Takeout Only

**Must Have Ticket! Limited to 100 Tickets
Sales end March 14th or Sold Out**

Contact: Gary Rudz — 716-829-9618



BINGO NIGHT

MARCH
18th

7:00PM-9:00PM
(doors open at 6:30PM)

ST JOHNS FELLOWSHIP
HALL

55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster

FREE TO PLAY!
ALL AGES!
FUN PRIZES!

DRINKS AND SNACKS PROVIDED



Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday

March 29th
from 8-10 am

Free will donations accepted

All are Welcome



St. John's Lancaster, 55 Pleasant Ave (716) 683-8972

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH

AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, 55 PLEASANT AVE, LANCASTER

For Ages 3- Grade 7
Rain or Shine



LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 29TH

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @ 10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 2ND

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma
2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 3RD

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 4TH

Worship @ 5:30pm @ Lancaster

RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH

Worship @ 8:45am @ Elma

Worship @ 10am @ Lancaster

FASTNACHT SUNDAY ~ APRIL 12TH

Fastnachts @ 8am

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am - 11:20am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs

Monday, March 2, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
YOUTH: Burrito Project	4:00pm - 8:00pm	Zion
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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

Thursday, March 5, 2026

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

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Event	Time	Location
YOUTH: Fundraiser Prep	10:00am - 2:00pm	Fellowship Hall
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Youth: Cinnamon Bun Fundraiser	10:00am - 12:00pm	
Worship & Music Committee	11:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am - 11:20am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

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
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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