

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack  
716-848-9683

Second Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, January 18, 2026

The Prelude  
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty  
was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of  
Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you,  
our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness  
of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you  
strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

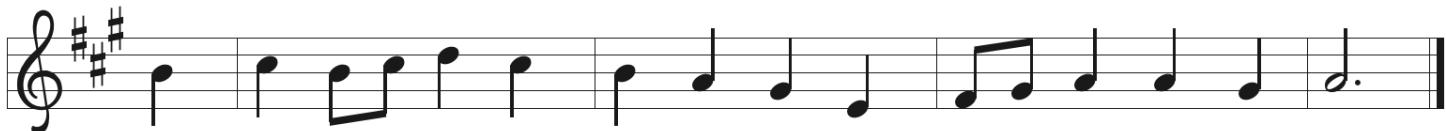
## Opening Hymn

WOV 652

### *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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

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### The Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## The First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb  
to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up  
the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

Psalm 40:1-11  
(Read Responsively)

I waited patiently upon the Lord,  
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit,  
out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff,  
making my footing sure.**

The Lord put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the Lord.

**Happy are they who trust in the Lord!  
They do not turn to enemies  
or to those who follow lies.**

Great are the wonders you have done,  
O Lord my God! In your plans for us,  
none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!  
But they are more than I can count.

**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears:  
burnt-offering and sin-offering  
you have not required.**

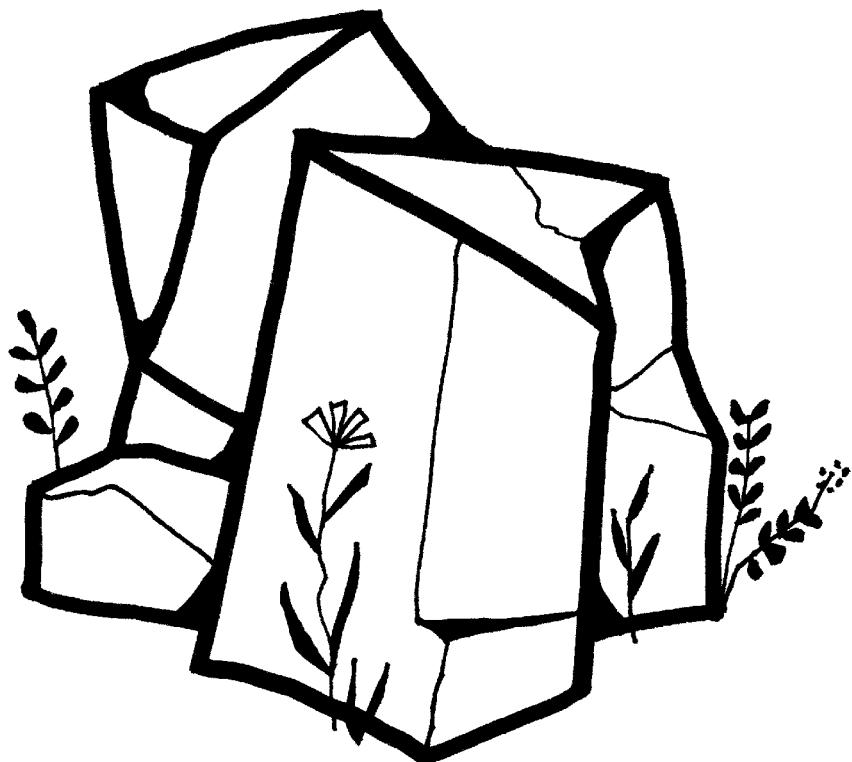
And so I said, “Here I am; I come.  
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**‘I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.’”**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness  
and your deliverance;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love  
and truth from the great assembly.**

You are the Lord;  
do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth  
continually keep me safe.



The Second Reading  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

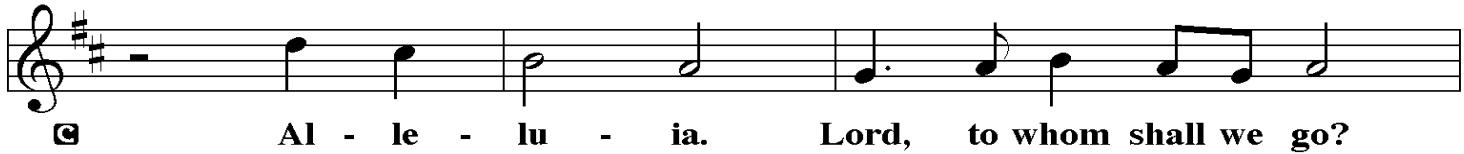
Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Alleluia



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



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

The Gospel Reading  
John 1:29-42

**Glory to you, O God.**

[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

# The Sermon

## Rev. John Scarafia



Hymn of the Day

ACS 979

*Making Their Way*

1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris-tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus'dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,  
learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,

the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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## Prayers of Intercession

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters (current situations may be named). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Gloria, Jake, Judy, Richard Schmidt, the Simpson/Hall family, and Jenny Gozdziak). Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community (local ministries may be named). Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **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

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

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

## The Offering

### The Offering 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.

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 majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



## 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



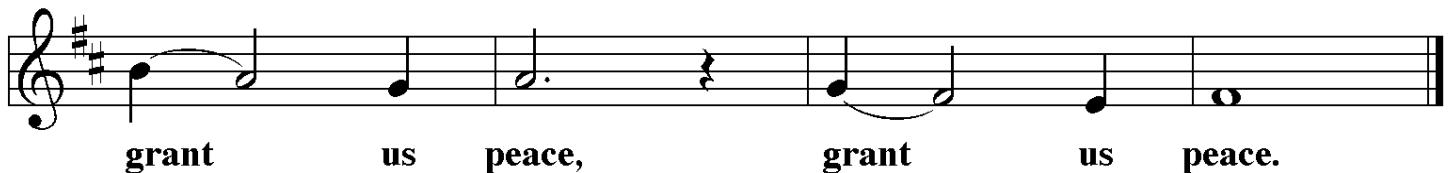
**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



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.

Communion Music  
LBW 212, WOV 709

## 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

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

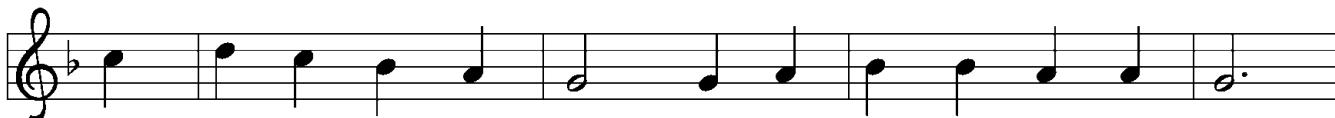
## The Benediction

*How Marvelous God's Greatness*

1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!  
 2 Each ti - ny flow'r-et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;  
 3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord  
 4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky



To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night:  
 the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;  
 the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;  
 of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;



in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen-dent birth,  
 the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;  
 the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;  
 when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,



in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.  
 the snow-capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.  
 and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.  
 oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848–1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879–1961, alt.  
 Music: DEN BLOMSTERID NU KOMMER, *Koralpsalmbooken*, Stockholm, 1697  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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### The Sending

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**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.

## OCTOBER 2025

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

43 Sundays thru OCTOBER '25 \$111,112.00

actual thru OCTOBER 2025 \$94,775.75

difference -\$16,336.25

## Offering

1/11/2026

\$1525.00

## 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!



The flowers on the altar today are in memory of  
Anna Eustace from Pauline Bauer.

**Altar Guild:** Amy & John Petrunyak

**Deacon:** Kathy Snyder

**Ushers:** Linda Costa & Kathy Burr

**Altar Flower Arrangements:**

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

To dedicate flowers use the envelopes provided in church  
or contact the church office by phone (716-683-8972)  
or email ([stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com)). Dedications must  
be submitted by the Monday before the dedication date.

**Available Altar Flower Dates:** Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

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, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Gloria, Jake, Judy, Richard Schmidt, the Simpson/Hall family, and Jenny Gozdziak

**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, January 21st at 2:30 PM to  
discuss the novel, THE FIRST LIE WINS, by Ashley Elston.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for  
Sunday, January 25th, 2026, following the 10am worship service.  
This year there are 3 incumbent seats, and 1 open seat for Council.

If you are interested in serving, you MUST contact Pastor or  
Janet Sincebaugh. We look forward to your participation!

## **From the Salvation Army:**

*Thank you for being a part of our toy drive to provide toys for children in need in our community. Together we were able to provide gifts for over 1,000 children! Please extend our gratitude to all who supported this effort. Happy New Year!*

## **YOUTH EVENTS**

### **Sledding @ Elma Meadows 1/18 from 1-3pm**

Snacks and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Kelly Sieracki & be sure to let her know if you will need transportation.

The **Food Pantry** is 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. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. For any questions, please contact Janet Sincebaugh (@ (716) 651-4685. Thank you!

**Food Pantry** We are extremely grateful for all donations made to Poppi's Pantry. These are some items you may want to consider: cereal/oatmeal, canned meats (chicken, spam), canned meals (Hash, Dinty Moore stew), small cans dog/cat food, pasta sauce (including Alfredo) and single serving pudding and/or gelatin cups (including sugar free), Thank you!

### **Women's Group Lunch**

will be at Olive Tree on Wed, Feb 11 at 11:30. Please sign up by Feb 8.

### **Congregation Care Committee**

will be meeting to cook on January 24th at 12:30pm. We are usually done in about 2 hours. Please join us! Everyone is welcome and all help is appreciated!

# This Week at-a-Glance

## Sunday, January 18, 2026

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
YOUTH: Sledding	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Elma Meadows

## Monday, January 19, 2026

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

## Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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

## Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Book Club	2:30pm	Chapel - Conference Area

## Thursday, January 22, 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
Choir Practice	7:30pm	Choir Room

## Friday, January 23, 2026

Event	Time	Location
DOYLE Fire Inspection	8:00am - 12:00pm	

## Saturday, January 24, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Congregational Care Meals	12:30pm	Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

## Sunday, January 25, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	11:00am	Sanctuary
Confirmation Class	11:15am	

## 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](http://www.stjohnslanc.org)

[stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto: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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