

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack  
716-848-9683

Second Sunday of Christmas  
Sunday, January 4, 2025

The Prelude  
The Greetings

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for**  
**your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we**  
**have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.**  
**We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our**  
**participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our**  
**reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your**  
**salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the  
whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

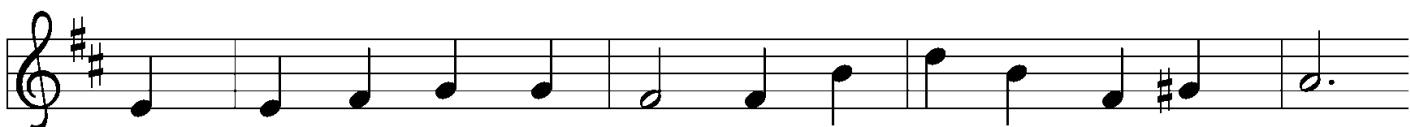
LBW 231

*O Word of God Incarnate*

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## The Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through 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  
Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalm 147:12-20 (*Read responsively*)

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

### Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**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 1:1-18  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

The Sermon: Rev. Jamie Retallack

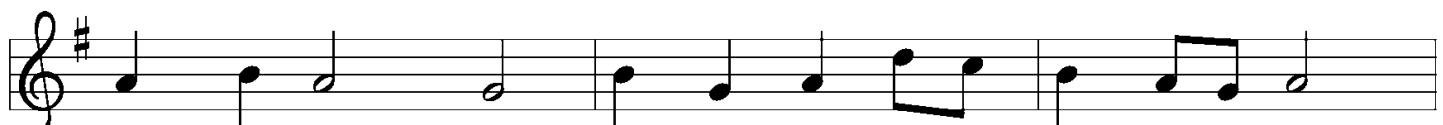
# Hymn of the Day

WOV 716

## *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scand - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear - you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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## Prayers of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth,  
let us pray boldly for the church, creation,  
and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (especially Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden Kruger, Jillian Graap, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce P., Mary Anne, Bob Valois, Pat Spanitz, Carl M., Dawn, and Dave McNeight). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ 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

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ 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

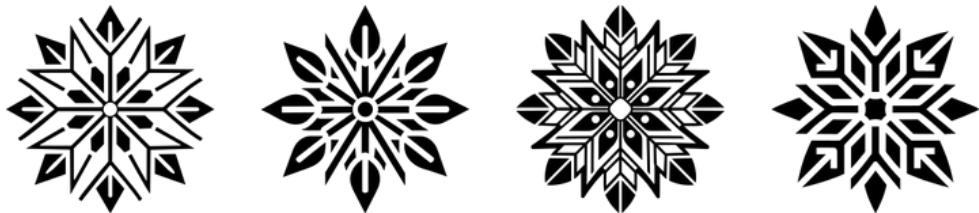
God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### 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, 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

Musical notation for the Sanctus hymn, consisting of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below each staff. The music is in common time, with a treble clef. The lyrics are:

C 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



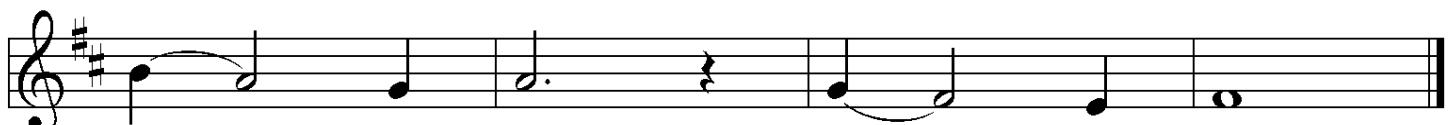
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

## The Benediction

## Sending Hymn

ELW 253

### *He Came Down*



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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## The Sending

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**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:

The Church Office is closed from December 22 - January 4.

It will reopen on Monday, January 5th **@ 10 am.**

### **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

## 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!



**Directory Updates:** If you have not yet, please help us by finding your entry on the printed pages (either upstairs in the Narthex, or downstairs in the Chapel), and making corrections as necessary. Thank you!

**Altar Guild:** Nancy & John Scarafia  
**Deacon:** RaeAnn Jakubowski  
**Ushers:** Rich Rice & Linda Costa

**Available Altar Flower Dates:**  
Jan 4, 11, 25; 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 P., Mary Anne, Bob Valois, Pat Spanitz, Carl M., Dawn, Bob Turley, and Dave McNeight

Please join us for “**The Un- Hanging of the Greens,**”  
AKA un-decorating the church after Christmas, on  
**Sun. 1/4 after 10 am service.** Many hands make light work.  
See Kathy Snyder with any questions.

**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!

# This Week at-a-Glance

## Sunday, January 4, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Undecorate Church	11:15am	

## Monday, January 5, 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 6, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
Council Meeting	7:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

## Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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

## Thursday, January 8, 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

## Saturday, January 10, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

## Sunday, January 11, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Worship & Music Committee	11:00am	
Confirmation Class	11:15am	
Property & Grounds	11:30am	



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## 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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