



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
55 Pleasant Avenue  
Lancaster NY 14086-2173  
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# THE GOOD NEWS

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster*



## Mission Statement



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides an inviting environment for spreading God's Word through worship, teaching and fellowship to address the spiritual needs of our congregation and community.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

The Rev. Jamie Retallack  
jamesretallack@gmail.com  
716-848-9683

### WORSHIP TIMES

**SAT. 5:30PM**  
**SUN. 9:00AM & 10:30AM**  
**IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP**  
**SUN. 9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
**10:00AM-3:00PM**  
**716-683-8972**  
**STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM**  
**STJOHNSLANC.ORG**

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# Pastor's Message



by: *Pastor Jamie*

Over the past year we have added a new element to our daily family routine - watching Jeopardy. I've mentioned before the love that I have for that program. I'm always picking up facts and trivia, and that show is the only place in daily life where many of those trivia bits come in handy. My family gets to demonstrate their patience with my trivia habit when I know more details surrounding one of the trivia answers. It's then that I spring into some story that I find interesting about the details and circumstances behind some bit of trivia. The truth is that my favorite part of trivia is those stories and details. I love seeing how things interconnect and learning the stories behind individual facts. It's been said that if someone asks me the time, I'll give them a detailed description of the history of clocks. The reason I like all of this is because it helps me to better understand the world, how it works, how things came to be as they are and so on. I also firmly believe that we should approach the Bible with the same intellectual curiosity. In fact the book of Deuteronomy is pretty clear about it.

*Now these are the commandments, statutes, and ordinances that the Lord your God instructed me to teach you so that you may carry them out in the land where you are headed and that you may so revere the Lord your God that you will keep all his statutes and commandments that I am giving you—you, your children, and your grandchildren—all your lives, to prolong your days. Pay attention, Israel, and be careful to do this so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in number—as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, said to you, you will have a land flowing with milk and honey.*

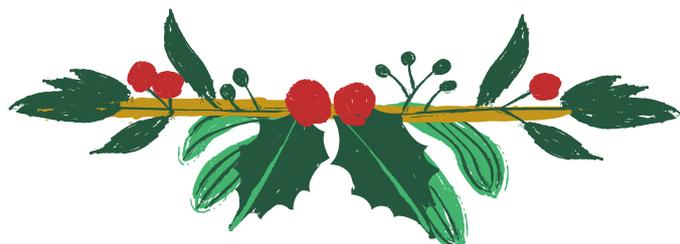
*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength.*

*These words I am commanding you today must be kept in mind, and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates. Deuteronomy 6*

We are to love God, and we do that by following his commands for us. In order to do that, we should learn and study God's word as often as possible. One of the major challenges of the pandemic has been that it has limited our ability to meet. In particular, we had to cancel the Bible study that we were running before the pandemic started. I would like to start that Bible study back up again, but I need your help. I'd like those who would be interested in participating in a Bible study to let me know what time of day would work for you: Evenings? Mornings? Afternoons? And what day of the week would work best for you? You can let me know by calling the church, emailing us, dropping a note in my office when you come to service - any way that is convenient for you. The Bible study will focus on the service readings from the week before. We've read them in church, you've heard a sermon on them, and now we can dig even deeper. I can't wait to get this started. We'll be beginning in the new year, so please let me know when you are available, and we can plan this together. Thanks in advance!

Peace

*Pastor Jamie*



## ANGEL TREE GIFT-GIVING

We are returning to the tradition of gift-giving tags for our Angel Trees! This is our 25th year participating in this wonderful program that provides joy to underserved children in our area. We have been informed that the Salvation Army has the greatest need for children's gifts, so there will not be tags for seniors on our tree at this time.

Angel Tree tags will be available on the trees beginning Saturday, **November 13th**. If you are able, please pick out a tag for a child and purchase a gift that is within your means. Gifts listed on the tag are suggestions. If you can't find the exact gift, purchase a similar item or an age-appropriate gift of your choice. Hats and gloves can always be added to any gift. Feel free to buddy-up with other members of the congregation to purchase a high-cost item. For those who would prefer to make a monetary donation, envelopes will also be hanging on the trees. Please make checks out to "Salvation Army," and place your envelope in the offering plate, or return it to the church office. After choosing a tag or an envelope from the tree, please replace it with a star.



All gifts must be at church by **Sunday, Dec. 12th**. Please place your gifts in a Christmas gift bag and tape the tag on the side of the bag before placing it under the tree.

Let's spread some joy this Christmas season! Call Carol Schwertz 861-1619 if you have any questions or need more information.



## December 2021 |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:30 PM Queen City Chordsmen Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>4</b> 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service 4:00 PM Youth Group Friendsgiving 6:30 PM Youth Mtg.	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:30 PM Queen City Chordsmen Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 4:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting 7:30 PM Queen City Chordsmen Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>15</b> Good News Articles Due 10:00 AM Church Office Hours	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
<b>19</b> Youth Christmas Gathering 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:30 PM Queen City Chordsmen Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>25</b> 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 4:00 PM Guiding Eyes Meeting 7:30 PM Queen City Chordsmen Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>31</b> 7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	<b>1</b> 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service

# Mission Message

## PLANNING A CRUISE THIS WINTER??

Perhaps you won't want to try and beat the record for the longest time at sea set by the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier of the US Navy. Chaplain A. J. Striffler began his command aboard the "Ike" in December, 2018, and 2019 was spent preparing the ship for deployment. Sea trials began in March 2019, and in early 2020, it set sail for the Middle East. Already on edge because of tensions around the world, the crew soon learned of the growing pandemic. From then until the ship returned to Norfolk, in August, they did not step on dry land, or even dock at any ports, to prevent the virus from coming onboard. 206 consecutive days at sea, the longest of any naval vessel.

So, how does a chaplain spend long days at sea? "I lived into a ministry of presence that everyone seemed to connect with." No matter what the crews' religious background, their race, ethnicity, language, sexuality, or rank, they all found a friend ready to listen. He also supervised, and wrote a liturgy for, burials at sea, which some veterans request, committing more than 100 as a final tribute. Most of the time, though, was just spent talking with any of the 4800 sailors and airmen who were often frustrated or scared. They found a safe place to share all their fears and anxieties. Of course, they also do anything any other pastor does, holding worship services, administering the sacraments, counseling, teaching...

ELCA chaplains serve all over the world, on land, at sea, in hospitals, in prisons. Your congregation's mission support makes this ministry possible. Thank you!

Blessings, Marcia Brown, mission interpreter



# Council Corner

*by: Kathy Konstabel, St. John's Council Vice President*

Hello and welcome to Council Corner!

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another calendar year, and with that, a time to reflect on where we are and where are we headed as we look forward to a new year.

This year has been a year of additional growth for our church as we returned to our post-pandemic "new normal", and as we look forward to 2022 we are encouraged and grateful for so much.

We have continued to see a rise in attendance and in financial giving which is setting us up for a positive start to 2022. We are so grateful to all who share their gifts with us to ensure that our good works will continue into the new year. Speaking of good works, our annual Giving Tree for the Salvation Army has returned, and in typical fashion, we have taken on the challenge of ensuring our neighbors have a Merry Christmas! Many thanks to all who have participated to help bring Christmas joy to others.

As we look ahead to 2022 Council is already starting to plan for budget review, annual meeting, and of course the election of new council members.

We wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

Congregation Council



## Follow us on Facebook!



Find us on Facebook  
@stjohnslancaster to keep up to  
date with information and  
connect with other members of  
our congregation!

## Holiday Worship Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 12/24 6:30pm  
10:30pm

Sunday 12/26 9:00am  
10:30am

## Youth Group News!

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday 12/5 Friendsgiving  
Youth Meeting

Sunday 12/12 Christmas Party



### DECEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE

**12/05/2021**

**9AM KATHY KONSTABEL  
1030AM SAM MILLER**

**12/12/2021**

**9AM KATHY KONSTABEL  
1030AM SAM GIERLINGER**

**12/19/2021**

**9AM SAM MILLER  
1030AM RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**

### DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

**12/05/2021**

**KELLY SIERACKI**

**12/12/2021**

**CHERYL HELWIG  
KATHY SNYDER**

**12/19/2021**

**AMY PETRUNYAK  
KAREN FREUND**

**12/26/2021**

**TIMMY GIERLINGER  
RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**



## Altar Flower Update

Arrangements for the altar are \$30 (for 2). You may request specific colors or flowers if desired, however there may be an additional charge if you would like larger arrangements or more expensive varieties of flowers. To dedicate flowers, please continue to use the envelopes provided at the church, Contact the church office by phone 716-683-8972 or by email at [stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com). All dedications must be submitted and paid for by the Monday before the dedication date in order to provide time to notify the florist.

### AVAILABLE ALTAR FLOWER DATES:

Jan 2022: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

February: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

## Prayer List

We lift up: Robert Scheifla, Elliana Meyers, Zach, Debra Wilczak, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Todd Potter, Debby Taylor, Dorothea Konstabel, Hans Kiener, Glen Sternish, Tracie Tomczyk, Bernie Lewis, Mark, Dan Dellasala, Matt Lane, and Al & Jean Setter.





# Happy Birthday!



MADELYN REFERMAT, 12-01  
ALEXANDER ORBAN, 12-01  
JOSHUA HOFFMAN, 12-02  
MIRANDA HARDY, 12-02  
SHIRLEY KLOC, 12-02  
CECELIA STRANC, 12-02  
CAYLEIGH SCIA, 12-03  
MARIAH KERWIN, 12-03  
ALAN SCHRUTT, 12-04  
THOMAS FROST, 12-04  
ELIZABETH ANDREWS, 12-04  
CAROL GRAHAM, 12-05  
JAIME NANTKA, 12-05  
BREANNA ALDINGER, 12-05  
ELLA FECHER, 12-06  
RACHEL TOMASZEWSKI, 12-06  
JONATHAN VANNORTWICK, 12-06  
JACOB DEWALD, 12-07  
SARAH BECKMAN, 12-07  
GABRIELLA FRONCZAK, 12-08  
CRAIG LINDAUER, 12-08  
KEVIN MURTHA, 12-08  
CAROL SCHWERTZ, 12-08  
BRYAN HAUSER, 12-09  
ARIANNA GREINER, 12-10  
STEVEN KEMNA, 12-11  
LAURIE MANGOLD, 12-11  
ADRIAN WOJTUSIAK, 12-11  
ROBERT RZEZNIK, 12-11  
ANNA MAKI, 12-12  
JOHN SCARAFIA, 12-12  
JOY LEE, 12-14  
TIMOTHY ROGACKI, 12-15  
ARLENE ARTH, 12-15  
KENNADIE PRESS, 12-15  
KATRINA GUARINO, 12-16  
SHARRON KRYMAN, 12-16

TAYLOR MAKI, 12-16  
LINH THI YARRINGTON, 12-17  
HOLLY VOLINO, 12-18  
STEVEN REINER, 12-18  
THOMAS III MORSE, 12-18  
LUCILLE KRUPA, 12-19  
TIFFANY SUAREZ, 12-20  
STACEY FRIEND, 12-20  
LONDON BUSH, 12-20  
AMY PETRUNYAK, 12-21  
ANTHONY CERVI, 12-21  
MASON KRUGER, 12-21  
BEVERLY HESS, 12-21  
ARDEN KRUGER, 12-21  
GERALD LANDAHL, 12-23  
GREGORY WILDRIDGE, 12-24  
MARJORIE MURPHY, 12-24  
SEBASTIAN PERNA, 12-24  
WYATT PREUSCH, 12-24  
MARY DONHAUSER, 12-25  
THERESA CRISP, 12-26  
ALICE SHARPE, 12-27  
GIANNA KRATHAUS, 12-27  
ELLIOTT PATER, 12-27  
PATRICIA KOSTECKY, 12-28  
KEVIN JACOBS, 12-28  
DOUGLAS PEITA, 12-29  
JOSHUA SCOTT, 12-29  
JENNIFER MURTHA, 12-29  
MARK ANDREWS, 12-29  
RYAN MCHALE, 12-29  
DIANE THORNTON, 12-29  
OLIVIA FRITZEN, 12-30  
LAWRENCE BARTOS, 12-30  
KARRIANNE HELWIG, 12-31  
DAVID NESTER, 12-31





## **St. John's Yellow Pages**

### SERVICES AND COMPANIES

Bunny Boteler **Bunny's Motor Sports** (small engine repair) 684-7650

Julie Buccieri **Lancaster Lady Monsters** (youth lacrosse) 807-5732

Mike Durkin **HDE Electric** 674-7259

Darlene Kramer **Cleaning & Laundry, Errands** 937-4179

Rachel Poss **Partylite Candles & Gifts/Parties** 491-4393

Christine Ruffner **Usborne Children's Educational Books** 656-2056

Michael Sheehan **Computer & Software Sales** 937-9815

Tim Stranc (TSAir) **Heating & Air-Conditioning** 684-9854

Brian Makey **Thrivent Financial Representative**

Brian.makey@thrivent.com 714-9852

Anthony Santucci **Walden Auto Sales & Service** 683-2901

### STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Jamie Retallack **Pastor** 716-848-9683

Rev. John Swanson **Pastor Emeritus**

Rev. John Scarafia **Pastor Emeritus**

Dr. Vicky Chang **Director of Music**

Cindy Jo Speth, Lucy Krupa **Cleaners**

Michael Walker **Sexton**

Donna McGrew **Financial Secretary**

Melissa Dwyer **Church Secretary**

