

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Parking Lot Service, Tune to 95.1 FM

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Prelude
The Greetings

Opening Hymn

LBW 128

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We truly repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

Rejoice and be glad! God hears the prayers of all who cry out, and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

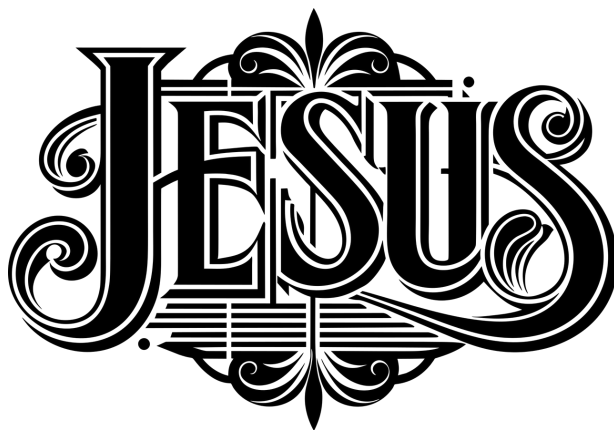
The First Reading
Acts 4:5-12 (NRSVUE)

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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



Psalm 23
(Read responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**



The Second Reading
1 John 3:16-24 (NRSVUE)

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

The Alleluia

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 10:11-18
Glory to you, O God.

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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



The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems (especially Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Patricia Kostecky, Tom & Ruth Morse, Tracy, Jim Kenline, Bob Valois, Ray, Donna Herget, Jess Gervasio, Denise Szymusiak, Cookie Mizgorski, and Leslie Simpson.) Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Offertory 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

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

The Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

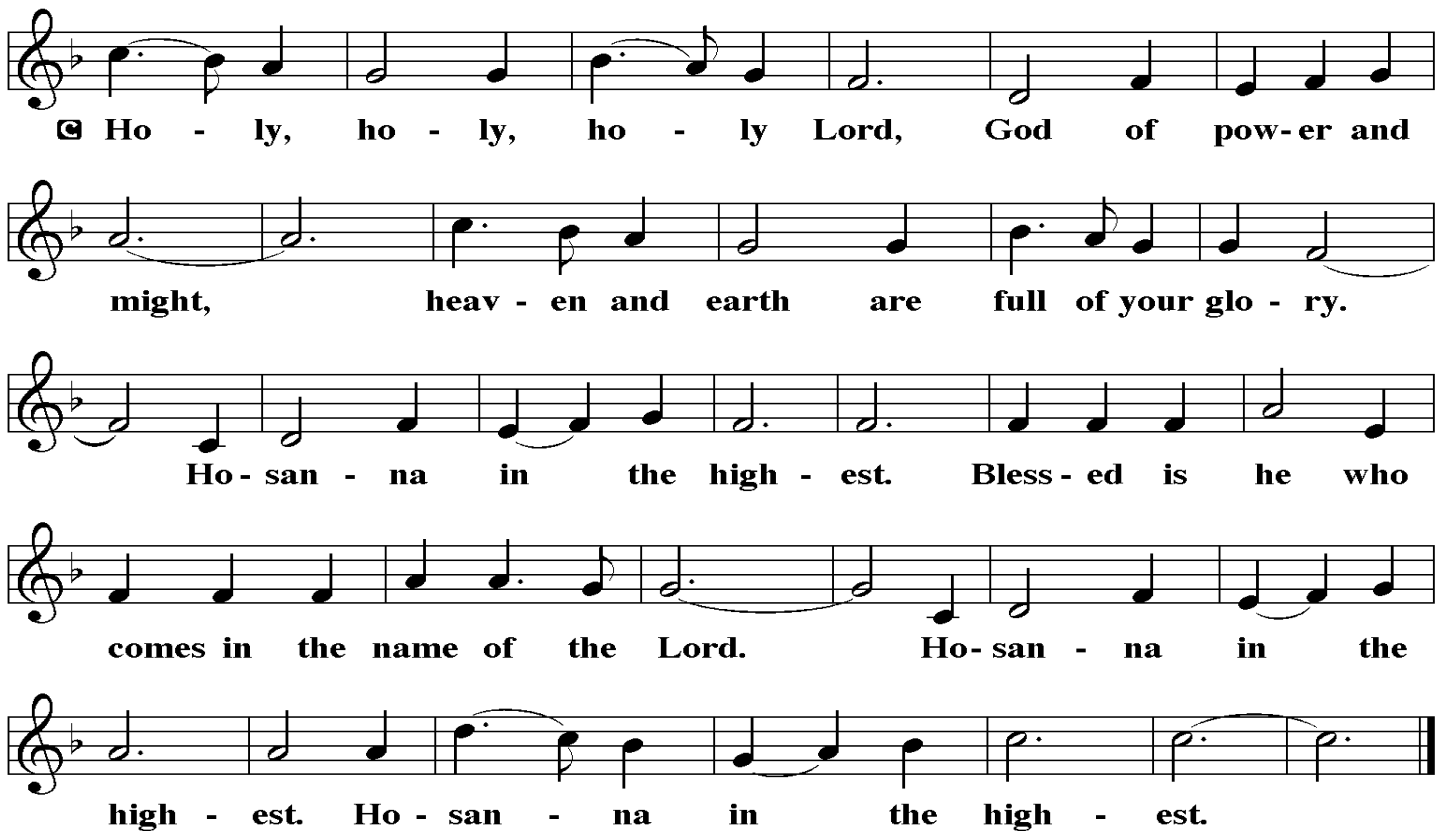
The Great Thanksgiving

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 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



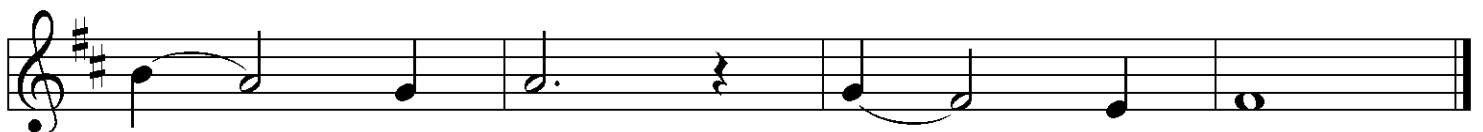
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

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

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Quilts

Almighty and gracious God, We pray for grateful hearts, for a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world's poverty and pain. We pray for the courage to give generously of our resources - our imaginations, our time and abilities, our material wealth. **We pray yet for more, Lord.**

We pray for confident hope, in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to know that each offering of quilts makes a welcome difference to others, and to you. **Lord, we pray for more.**

We pray you would bless those who labor on our behalf through all the work of Lutheran World Relief, **that we would uphold them with our prayers, our encouragement, our gifts, our willingness to learn and to invite the support of others.**

O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts - a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts we have made, to you.

We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, making each piece we have created an expression of love. There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life - how you can use something as small as a quilt, to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours.

Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Benediction

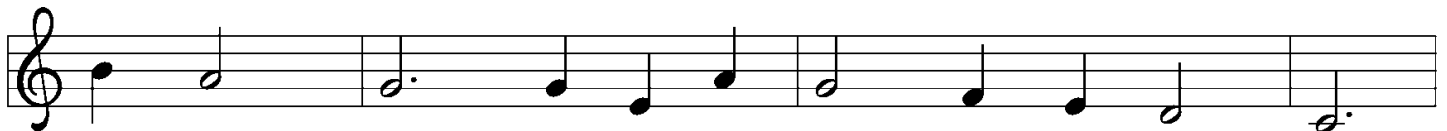
Sending Hymn

ELW 385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The Sending

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The People of St. John's Welcome You to 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.

Ushers

Rich Rice
Rick Tomaszewski

Deacon

RaeAnn
Jakubowski

Altar Guild

TimmyGierlinger
RaeAnn jakubowski

Altar Flower Dates Available:

4/28, 5/5, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30
\$30 for two bouquets

Offering: 4/14/2024 : \$2273.00

AED and CPR Training

AED Training: Wednesday, April 24th @ 7pm

AED & CPR Training: Wednesday, May 22nd @ 7pm

- * Courses taught by CPR/AED qualified instructor.
- * Step-by-step guidance so you know exactly what to do.
 - * Revive someone from sudden cardiac arrest.
 - * Easily used on infants and children.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday	4/21	9:00am	Bible Study Youth: Luncheon Set-Up
Sunday	4/21	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	4/21	10:00am	Worship /Quilt Blessing
Sunday	4/21	10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday	4/21	11am-2pm	Spaghetti Luncheon
Sunday	4/21	11:30am	Confirmation
Monday	4/22	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	4/22	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	4/23	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	4/23	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	4/24	7:00pm	AED Training
Thursday	4/25	1:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	4/25	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday	4/25	7:00pm	Book Club
Thursday	4/25	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	4/26	9:30am	Congregational Care Meals
Friday	4/26	4:30pm	YOUTH: Spring Retreat
Friday	4/26	6:00pm	Contra Dance
Saturday	4/27	5:30pm	Worship
Sunday	4/28	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	4/28	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	4/28	10:00am	Worship
Sunday	4/28	10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday	4/28	6:00pm	Youth Gathering Meeting

Book Club

Please join us on Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 PM to discuss Ariel Lawhon's novel, THE FROZEN RIVER.

Congregational Care Updates:

There will not be a coffee hour in April. The group will be cooking meals on Friday, April 26th at 9:30am at the church, and the next meeting will be Saturday, May 11 at 1pm.

LYMA's Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

Saturday, May 4th from Noon-Sold Out.

Dinners are take-out and will be \$15.00.

St. John's Lutheran Lancaster and Elma Women's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 8th @ 9am at the Olive Tree @ 5240 Broadway in Lancaster.** Cost is based on your order. Sign-up sheets are located at the entrances to the church. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 1st. You may contact Beverly hHess @ 716-868-5096 with any questions.

We pray for: Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Patricia Kostecky, Tom & Ruth Morse, Tracy, Jim Kenline, Bob Valois, Ray, Donna Herget, Jess Gervasio, Denise Szymusiak, Cookie Mizgorski, and Leslie Simpson.

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 to St. John's Lutheran!



Endowment Committee Elections

Thank you to all who expressed interest in serving on the Endowment Committee. Those elected to serve are: from the Council - Marge Kruger and Rich Rice, and from the congregation - Pr. John Scarafia and Donna Terry.

Altar Guild is looking for new members. All are welcome - women, men & families - to serve and help the church prepare for worship. Altar guild service entails setting up communion for Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship, as well as filling the candles and changing the paraments as necessary. This preparation is normally done on Saturday morning, however, it can be flexible to suit your schedule, but all must be ready for Saturday evening and Sunday morning services. Each pair of members serves on the scheduled rotation once every 4 or 5 weeks, depending on how many members we have. If you are thinking of a way to get involved and serve, we would ask you to prayerfully consider joining the altar guild. If you are interested or have any questions, you may speak to Kathy Snyder or Pastor. Thank you!

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Prayer shawls are available for many occasions, as well as for those who are ill, in the hospital, or just in need of some comfort from this caring congregation. See Cindy Jo or contact Melissa if you know someone who could use that blessing! The ministry is also in need of **yarn donations**. If you are doing some Spring cleaning and have extra, or if you run across a great sale or coupon, keep the prayer shawl ministry in mind. Thank you!

YOUTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser

Sunday, April 21st:

Set-up @ 9am

Serve 11am-2pm

Spring Retreat

April 26th-28th @ LCLC

Leaving Kelly's house at 4:30pm on Friday, April 26th.

Will return on Sunday, April 28th.

Work Day: Sat, April 27th @ LCLC

Sign up @ Lutheran Youth, but check in with Kelly.

Financial Assistance is available.

Contact Ryan @ Lutheran Youth or Kelly @ 716-863-3023

If you are interested in the work day,

but cannot attend the retreat, please contact Kelly.

National Gathering Youth & Family Meeting

Sunday, April 28th from 6-8pm

Youth Tapestry/Game Night is postponed

Sunday School Send-Off

on Sunday, June 2

Youth & Sunday School will assist with Worship service

Last Day of Sunday School

Fund and Games and Snacks and Beverages

Entertainment by Heart to Heart

Spaghetti Luncheon

St. John's Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, April 21st

from 11am-2pm

\$10 Dine In/Take Out

St. John's Lutheran 55 Pleasant Ave Lancaster



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief



This amazing group of ladies meets on Tuesdays at St. John's, beginning in September and winding down in April, to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This season they made 152 quilts! Seeing all of these masterpieces displayed in one place is awe-inspiring! Join us for the blessing of the quilts this Sunday, April 21st @ 10am, and see for yourself!



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

Vicar Teresa J. O'Connor

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)

www.stjohnslanc.org

stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)

Carol Graham (Vice-President)

Karen McClintock (Secretary)

Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Sam Gierlinger

Samuel Miller

RaeAnn Jakubowski

David Nester

Jamie Kloc

Rich Rice

Marjorie Kruger

Kelly Sieracki

Jeff Miller

Printed/projected materials used in this bulletin are included by permission of licenses:
Worship elements: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All
rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License
#SAS000634 and Music: One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

Bible Passages unless otherwise noted: New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition
(NRSVUE) Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States
of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.