

THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

MAY 2026



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.

WORSHIP TIMES

SAT. 5:30PM

SUN. 10:00AM

IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

MON-WED-THURS (Lancaster)

TUES (Elma)

10:00AM-3:00PM

716-683-8972

STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM

STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It's been quite enjoyable seeing the greater Buffalo area really excited for the Sabres. I know that it's just sports, and in the grand scheme of things is rather unimportant, however it's fun seeing the community join together. When the community pulls together in the spirit of camaraderie and excitement to have fun and celebrate, it really is uplifting. On top of that, it's something I haven't experienced in about 30 years. I wasn't living in Buffalo for the last few playoff appearances, so the last time I saw the people of the 716 have hockey fever was 1999: flags, yard signs, blue and gold apparel and so much more. It brings about a joy, enthusiasm and a hope that is shared among people. From my living room I could hear the roar of the crowd gathered in the streets of Lancaster to watch a game. In many ways this rebirth is a good parable for the experience of Easter morning; enthusiasm, joy and the camaraderie of the congregation gathered together in the joy of the Spirit. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans:

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;*

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

*“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;*

and again Isaiah says,

*“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:8-13)





PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

So as you look around town and the Joy being shared, remember that we gather with even more joy for a much higher calling by an infinitely higher power. God calls us to be people of praise, and joy. We are to share hope with the world and with one another. When the hockey season is over, the signs, shirts and excitement will fade. May our excitement for God never fade, but rather be constantly renewed!

Peace,

Pastor Jamie



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, May 20th at 2:30 PM to discuss the action packed thriller, **THE ASCENT** by Adam Plantinga.

Kurt Argento is an ex-Detroit street cop who can't let injustice go—and who has the fighting skills to back up his idealism. If he sees a young girl being dragged into an alley, he's going to rescue her and cause some damage. When he does just that in a small corrupt Missouri town, he's brutally beaten and thrown into a maximum-security prison.

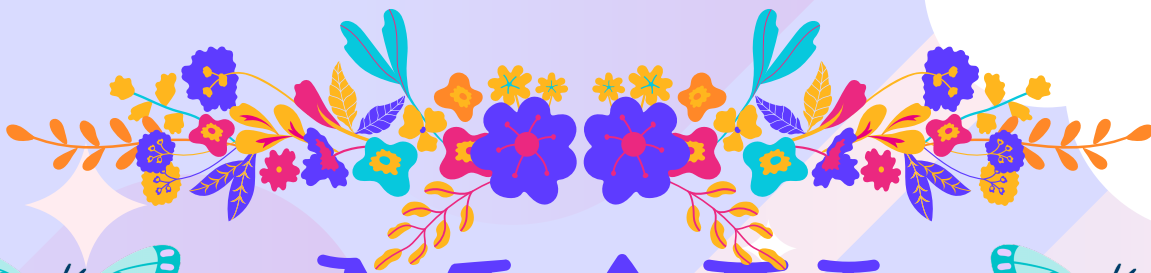
Julie Wakefield, a grad student who happens to be the governor's daughter, is about to take a tour of the prison. But when a malfunction in the security system releases a horde of prisoners, a fierce struggle for survival ensues.

Argento must help a small band of staff and civilians, including Julie and her two state trooper handlers, make their way from the bottom floor to the roof to safety.

All that stands in their way are six floors of the most deadly convicts in Missouri.

Read this propulsive tale full of mystery, excitement, twists and turns; then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/ward-d-freida-mcfadden/1143375703?ean=9781464246258>



MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice	27 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	28 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	29 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	30 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	1	2 12:00pm - 5:00pm Chic BBQ 5:30pm In Person Service
3 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Thrivent Info Meeting 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class	4 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:15pm LYMA Golf	5 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 4:00pm YOUTH: Burrito Project 7:00pm NA Meeting	6 WM Recycle Tote Pick-Up 8:00am - 9:00am Bike Group 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	7 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm First Communion Classes	8	9 5:30pm In Person Service
10 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:30am Property & Grounds	11 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	12 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 7:00pm NA Meeting	13 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 11:30am Women's Lunch 7:00pm Lancaster Garden Club 7:00pm LYMA Mtg.	14 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm First Communion Classes	15 Good News Articles Due	16 8:00am - 4:00pm YOUTH: LCLC Workday 12:30pm Congregational Care Meals 5:30pm In Person Service
17 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class	18 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	19 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 7:00pm NA Meeting	20 WM Recycle Tote Pick-Up 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 2:30pm Book Club	21 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm First Communion Classes	22 6:30pm B*I*N*G*O Night	23 5:30pm In Person Service
24 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/First Communion 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice	25 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 5:00pm - 7:30pm Guiding Eyes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	26 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	27 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	28 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice	29	30 5:30pm In Person Service
31 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:05am - 11:20am Choir Practice 11:15am Confirmation Class	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	2 WM Dumpster Pick-Up 7:00pm NA Meeting	3 WM Recycle Tote Pick-Up 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	4 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	5	6 5:30pm In Person Service



UPCOMING SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

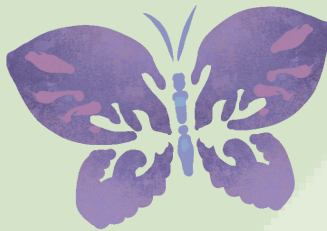
Sharon Walker
Carol Graham
May 3, 2026
Nancy & John
Scarafia
May 10, 2026
Kathy Snyder
May 17, 2026
Amy & John
Petrunyak
May 24, 2026
RaeAnn Jakubowski
Corinne Rudz
May 31, 2026

DEACONS

5/3/2026
Kathy Konstabel
5/10/2026
Kathy Snyder
5/17/2026
Kathy Konstabel
5/24/2026
RaeAnn Jakubowski
5/31/2026
Kathy Snyder

USHERS

5/3/2026
Linda Costa
Kathy Burr
5/10/2026
Rick Tomaszewski
Dave Rice
5/17/2026
Linda Costa
Rick Tomaszewski
5/24/2026
Rich Rice
Daniel Rice
5/31/2026
Rich Rice
Daniel Rice



Following service on May 3 will be an informational meeting about **Thrivent Action Teams**. Thrivent will give up to 250\$ to individuals who are Thrivent clients with membership to use on projects at their Church. The meeting will cover how to utilize this program and answer any questions you may have. All are welcome, individuals who are Thrivent clients are encouraged to attend in particular.

First Communion will be on May 24th There will be three First Communion classes on May 7th, 14th, and 21st @ Lancaster @ 7pm. First Communion is for anyone age 5th grade and up who has not yet received first Communion. If you have kids who will be participating please let Pastor know.



ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE

Arrangements for the altar are \$40 (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. 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

May 3, 17, 24, 31

PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:

Edna Mann, Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram,
Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arden
Kruger, Anna Hart, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary
Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria
Richards, Susan Thaesler, Jessica Riker,
Andrea, the Carpenter Family, Tom K.,
Karen & Andy, Jill, and Janet.




HAVE A
Wonderful
BIRTHDAY



COLE FRITZEN, 05-01
KAREN FREUND, 05-02
THOMAS KRAMER, 05-03
CRYSTAL BUSH, 05-03
MEGAN MILLER, 05-05
ERIC GILLEN, 05-06
CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN JR, 05-06
JENNIFER CUTTITTA, 05-06
ISABELLA GRANATA, 05-07
KENNETH KLING, 05-07
KIM MAHONEY, 05-08
CHRISTINA FUNK, 05-09
ANDREW ENGELBACH-SCHAFFER, 05-10
KIMBERLY ORBAN, 05-12
GERALDINE NOWICKI, 05-12
BUNNY BOTELER, 05-13
MELISSA CINOTTI, 05-13
JAMES FROST, 05-14
GRACELYN MADISON, 05-14
PAISLEIGH KWACZALA, 05-15
BRENNEN MARKOWSKI, 05-15
ELIANA PORTO, 05-15
CONNIE SABATINO, 05-15
NOAH BARTOS, 05-15
DIANA PRZYKUTA, 05-16
VICTORIA ALDINGER, 05-16

AIDEN WOJTUSIAK, 05-16
ROCCO STOWBUNENKO, 05-17
JEANNE HAMANN, 05-19
DAVID FRIEND, 05-19
NATALIE SMITH, 05-20
MICHAEL DURKIN, 05-21
JEFFREY BUCCIERI, 05-22
MARIE FREUND, 05-22
MARK SMITH, 05-22
EMMA JACOBS, 05-22
KELLY SIERACKI, 05-23
WILLIAM NANTKA, 05-24
TIMOTHY BURT, 05-24
NICOLE LAYER-PARDI, 05-24
HAILEY MARSH, 05-24
DIANA CARNEY, 05-26
RILEY CARNEY, 05-26
JACOB WOJTUSIAK, 05-26
DAVID FRIEND, 05-27
DENISE KRUEGER, 05-28
RICHARD TERRY, 05-28
JAMES FREDERICKS, 05-29
JACKSON PRESS, 05-29
MEGAN HEINE, 05-30
WILLIAM REFERMAT, 05-30
LISA GOTTS, 05-31



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

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www.stjohnslanc.org

stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

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, Housekeeping

Michael Walker, Sexton

Donna McGrew, Financial Secretary

Melissa Dwyer, Church Secretary

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)

Carol Graham (Vice-President)

Karen McClintock (Secretary)

Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer

Tom Frost

Sam Gierlinger

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Marjorie Kruger

Jeff Miller

Rich Rice

Paul Rudz

Kelly Sieracki



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



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@stjohnslancaster



*April showers bring
May flowers...*