

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



Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

16th Saturday after Pentecost
Saturday, September 12, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

ACS 1049

Before the Waters Nourished Earth



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress



The Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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



Psalm 103:8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**



The Second Reading
Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35 **Glory to you, O God.**

Then Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack



I Come with Joy

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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.
Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and
whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Gathering of the Gifts



- 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

The Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



The Benediction

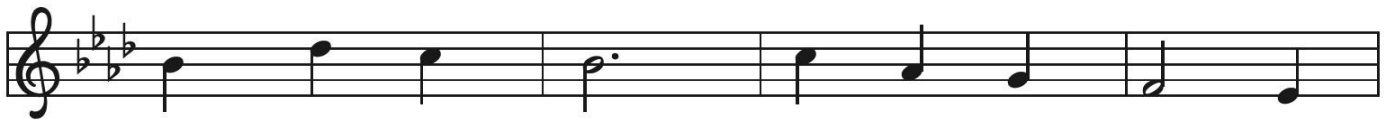
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

The Sending

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
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.

Altar Guild: RaeAnn Jakubowski & Corinne Rudz
Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski
Ushers: Kathy Burr & Linda Costa

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!



<u>Offering</u>	<u>Quarterly Statements available upon request.</u>
9/6/2026	If you would like to receive quarterly
\$2761.00	statements by mail, please let the office know.

Worship & Music Committee meets 9/13 after worship.

The flowers on the altar today are
in memory of Ron Richards from his family.

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, September 30th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **THE CORRESPONDENT**, by Virginia Evans.

October Women's lunch/fellowship –
10/14/2026 @ 11:30 am @ Olive Tree

We lift up: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvinea, Kathy & Dave W., Pastor Erik Hart, Aaron, Tim Rogacki, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, and the family & friends of Michael Fellingner.

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

Altar Flower Arrangements:

Flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2).

Available Flower Dates: Sept 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

Save the Date

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner 2026

Tuesday, November 3rd from 4-7pm

Your generosity is very much appreciated! Gift cards from Amazon and Walmart are still needed to help provide for Paul's care. Envelopes are available around the church. Feel free to include a message to Paul. Prayers are always appreciated. Thank you!

Poppi's Pantry is serving this congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2**. Kindly consider donating time to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. Thank you!

Poppi's Pantry As we head into the cooler weather, we need more help than ever to keep the shelves stocked. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Much needed: cereal, ready-to-eat meals and soups, canned meats, canned fruit, or anything sugar-free. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Ramp Fund the St John's Lutheran Young Men association is sponsoring a ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Please use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope.
Thank you very much & God Bless! LYMA

Sunday Morning Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM. This season we will be reading through the book of Romans. This will provide an opportunity to review what caused Martin Luther to challenge the church of his day and guides us as Lutheran Christians today. Come join us each Sunday at 9:00 AM before worship in the Memorial Lounge.

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on Friday, October 18th in the Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and prizes! Free to play, and all ages welcome! Doors open at 6:30pm - bingo starts at 7:00pm.
Bingo chips, drinks and snacks will be available

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Worship & Music Committee	11:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

Monday, September 14, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Poppi's Pantry	11:00am- 2:00pm	Downstairs Offc
Guiding Eyes	5:00pm- 7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Good News Articles Due		
Quilters	9:30am- 1:30pm	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	

Friday, September 18, 2026

Event	Time	Location
B*I*N*C*O Night	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 19, 2026

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

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Coffee Hour	11:00am	Memorial Lounge
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Confirmation Class	11:15am	



Groups Resuming

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9/6 @ 11:05AM

LYMA

9/9 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9/13 @ 9AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9/13 @ 10AM

QUILTERS

9/15 @ 9:30AM

HAND BELL REHEARSAL

9/17 @ 6:30PM

THURS. BIBLE STUDY

9/24 @ 1PM

JOYSINGERS

TBD

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
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Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer	Jeff Miller
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders (*like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today*) to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvine, Kathy & Dave W., Pastor Erik Hart, Aaron, Tim Rogacki, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, and the family & friends of Michael Fellingner.). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (*name/s, and*) all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.