

# THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

DECEMBER 2024



## 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

MONDAY-THURSDAY

10:00AM-3:00PM

716-683-8972

STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM

STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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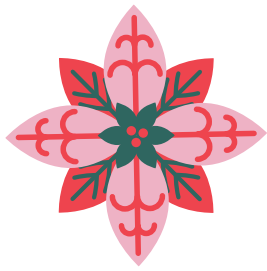
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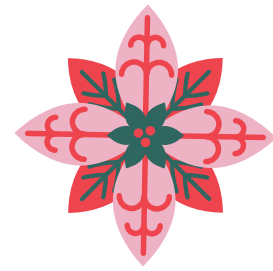
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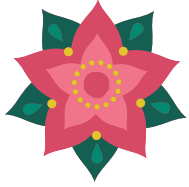
## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



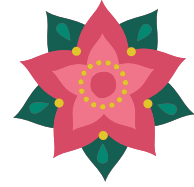
Drake has really gotten interested in football over the last two years. He'd pay attention a bit before, but now he's all in. He keeps track of injuries and signings across the league, follows stats and standings, he even put the Bills' birthdays on the calendar in his room. He has a tremendous memory for it too; for the most part he can tell me the week by week win loss record from last year. As a father, I'm happy that my son and I have a mutual interest and that it is something that we can bond over. Never underestimate the value of bonding, no matter how trivial the subject of it may be. As a long-time Bills fan, I also want to make sure that he recognizes how good we have it: our team wins most of its games, we win the division every year, and our players are easy to root for. It's not always this good. If he's going to be a lifelong fan, I hope he recognizes how important it is to make the most of the good years, and value them because inevitably bad years will happen. It's important to make the most of the good times, and to not take that gift for granted. It's a lesson that I want to impart to Drake, not just about football, but about all of our blessings. It's a lesson Jesus taught his followers too.

In the 12th chapter of Luke, Jesus is teaching in parables. He uses an example of a master and his servants. He highlights that good servants follow their master's wishes. He also emphasizes that the more the master trusts the servant with, the higher his expectations of them. He concludes verse 48 with, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." We have all been given a lot. We live in a time and place with great abundance. Both St. John's Elma and Lancaster were able to navigate the difficulties of the pandemic. Now both churches are in a place to evaluate where God is leading. We have been given much.

When it comes to talking about being given much, the elephant in the room is that both churches were given large bequests from generous and faithful members. Both churches were also able to set up endowments with those bequests that will yield fruits in perpetuity. Yes, we have truly been given much.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)



As many congregations deal with the question of how to keep open, we are given the much more enviable challenge of “how can we be good stewards of these gifts given to the glory of God?” We have been given much and to reiterate what Jesus said, from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Both congregations have already undertaken some renovation projects, and there are more such projects on the way. Beyond being good stewards of what we have in terms of ministry and property, we must ask ourselves what ministry God is calling us to. Much has been given to us, which means much has been asked. This means that it is imperative that we continue to be generous with our weekly offerings, and not give in to the temptation to give less because someone else gave more. It means we have to explore what new ministries we can undertake and support. We have been given much and much is expected. May we truly appreciate the good times we find ourselves in. God has been good to us.

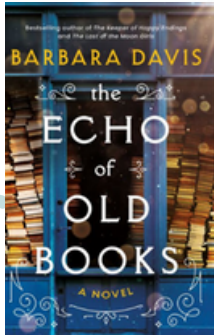
Peace,

*Pastor Jamie*





# BOOK CLUB



Please join us in the Fellowship Hall (using the ramp entrance) on Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 PM to discuss the novel, **THE ECHO OF OLD BOOKS**, by Barbara Davis.

Rare-book dealer Ashlyn Greer's affinity for books extends beyond the intoxicating scent of old paper, ink, and leather. She can feel the echoes of the books' previous owners—an emotional fingerprint only she can read.

When Ashlyn discovers a pair of beautifully bound volumes that appear to have never been published, her gift quickly becomes an obsession. Not only is each inscribed with a startling incrimination, but the authors, Hemi and Belle, tell conflicting sides of a tragic romance.

With no trace of how these mysterious books came into the world, Ashlyn is caught up in a decades-old literary mystery, beckoned by two hearts in ruins, whoever they were, wherever they are. Determined to learn the truth behind the doomed lovers' tale, she reads on, following a trail of broken promises and seemingly unforgivable betrayals. The more Ashlyn learns about Hemi and Belle, the nearer she comes to bringing closure to their love story—and to the unfinished chapters of her own life.

Read this love story within a love story, a story of hope, despair, hate, forgiveness, and second chances. Then come (as your schedule permits) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-echo-of-old-books-barbara-davis/1142060228?ean=9781542038164>

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship - Advent 1 11:00am Confirmation Class	<b>2</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	<b>3</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>5</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm Book Club 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>8</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship - Advent 2 11:30am Property & Grounds	<b>9</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	<b>10</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm Women's Fellowship & Gift Exchange	<b>12</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>15</b> <b>Good News Articles Due</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship - Advent 3 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Confirmation Class <b>4:00pm - 7:00pm YOUTH -            Christmas Party</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	<b>17</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>18</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours <b>6:00pm - 10:00pm            LYMA Christmas            Party</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service
<b>22</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship - Advent 4 - Pageant	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed 5:00pm Worship - Elma 7:00pm Worship - Lancaster 10:30pm Worship - Lancaster	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>29</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Joysingers 10:00am In Person/ Online Service 10:00am Sunday School	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed 4:30pm Guiding Eyes 7:30pm Chordsmen	<b>31</b> Church Office Closed 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30pm In Person Service



<https://www.stjohnslanc.org/calendar>





# UPCOMING SCHEDULES

## ALTAR GUILD

12/01/24  
Kelly Sieracki  
12/08/24  
Kathy Snyder  
12/15/24  
Amy & John  
Petrunyak  
12/22/24  
Timmy Gierlinger  
RaeAnn Jakubowski  
12/29/24  
Sharon Walker  
Carol Graham  
01/05/25  
Kelly Sieracki

## DEACONS

12/1/2024  
Kathy Snyder  
12/8/2024  
Paul Rudz  
12/15/2024  
RaeAnn Jakubowski  
12/22/2024  
Kathy Snyder  
12/24/24 7pm  
Paul Rudz  
12/24/24 1030pm  
TBD  
12/29/2024  
Paul Rudz

## USHERS

12/1/2024  
Bev Hess  
Rich Rice  
12/8/2024  
Janet Sincebaugh  
Greg Wildridge  
12/15/2024  
Linda Costa  
Kathy Burr  
12/22/2024  
Janet Sincebaugh  
Rick Tomaszewski  
12/24/24 7pm  
Janet Sincebaugh  
TBD  
12/24/24 1030pm  
Greg Wildridge  
TBD  
12/29/2024  
Linda Costa  
Rick Tomaszewski

## EVENTS/MEETINGS

Confirmation Class: 12/1 @ 11am  
Book Club: 12/5 @ 7pm  
Property & Grounds Committee: 12/8 @ 11:30am  
Women's Christmas Party: 12/11 @ 6pm  
Coffee Hour: 12/15 @ 11am  
Confirmation Class: 12/15 @ 11am  
Youth Christmas Party: 12/15 @ 4-7pm  
LYMA Christmas Party: 12/18 @ 6pm  
Blue Christmas Worship: 12/21 @ 7pm  
Worship & Pageant: 12/22 @ 10am  
Christmas Eve Worship : 12/24 Elma @ 5pm  
Lancaster @ 7pm & 10:30pm  
Church Office Closed: 12/23-12/26 & 12/30-1/2/25





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### YOUTH

White Elephant Christmas Party: 12/15 4pm-7pm Bring a \$5-\$10 Unisex Wrapped gift Snacks & beverages provided Decorate Cookies, Carols, Play Games

We are looking for board games for the Youth Game Room. If you have games you are no longer using, please consider donating them to the Youth by placing them in the basket outside the church office.. Thank you!

### COUNCIL

Council seats are available in 2025. If you are interested in serving, please submit your name to the office, or let Pastor, Janet Sincebaugh, or Carol Graham know.

### SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

It's Angel Tree time! Let's assist The Salvation Army in bringing some joy to children in our area during this Christmas season. Tags will be available on trees both upstairs and downstairs, starting November 9th. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You can purchase the gift listed (or something similar) and then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. Additional gifts can be purchased, if desired. Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 8th. There are also envelopes hanging on the trees to donate cash or check (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place your envelope in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, call the church office or Carol Schwertz at 716-861-1619.



# 'TIS THE SEASON

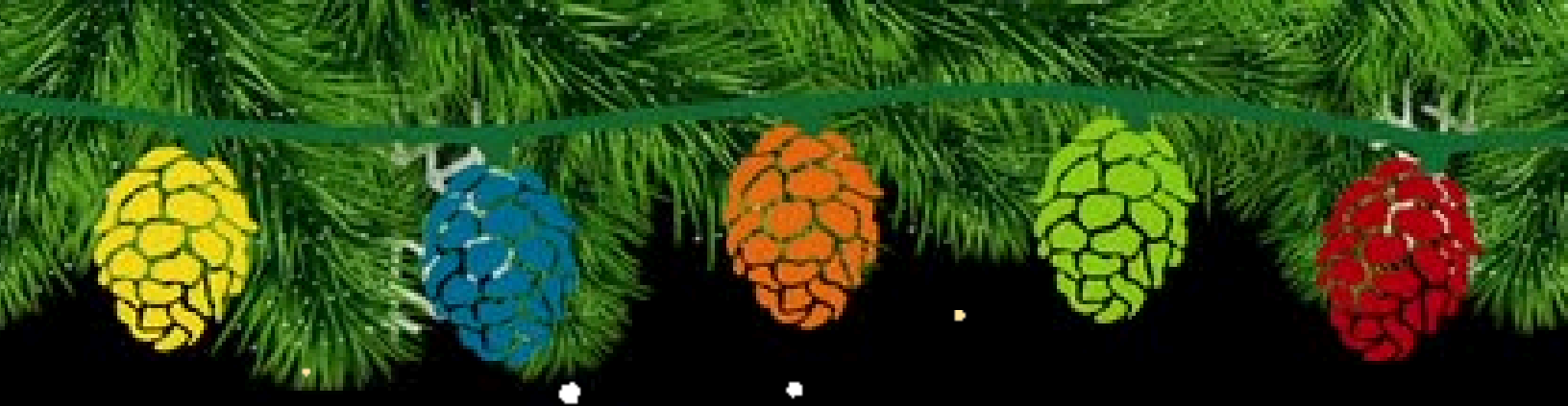
**Salvation Army**

*Angel Tree*



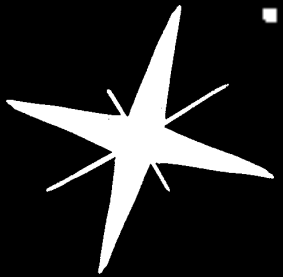
**November 9th  
thru December 8th**





# *Women's Christmas Fellowship*

Wednesday, December 11th @ 6pm



Fellowship: All Are Welcome!

Pot Luck: Bring a Dish to Share



Gift Exchange: Bring a Wrapped \$10 Gift

*St. John's Lancaster*

*55 Pleasant Ave.*

*716-683-8972*





# LYMA CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH  
6PM COCKTAILS \* 7PM DINNER



@ Skoob's Village Grille  
50 Central Ave, Lancaster



DINNER: THREE MEATS, SIDES, SALAD  
\$30 PER PERSON - ALL ARE WELCOME!

CONTACT GARY RUDZ FOR TICKETS

St. John's Lancaster, 55 Pleasant Ave. 716-683-8972





## 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

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



### PRAYER LIST

You know our needs, O Lord:  
Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Tom & Ruth Morse, Tracy Will, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Eoin Mast, Madelyn, and the family & friends of Howard Willson, and Fred Greanoff.



# Happy Birthday

MADLYN REFERMAT, DEC 1  
ALEXANDER ORBAN, DEC 1  
SHIRLEY KLOC, DEC 2  
JOSHUA HOFFMAN, DEC 2  
CECELIA STRANC, DEC 2  
MIRANDA HARDY, DEC 2  
CAYLEIGH SCIA, DEC 3  
MARIAH KERWIN, DEC 3  
ELIZABETH ANDREWS, DEC 4  
THOMAS FROST, DEC 4  
BREANNA ALDINGER, DEC 5  
JAIME NANTKA, DEC 5  
CAROL GRAHAM, DEC 5  
ELLA FECHER, DEC 6  
SARAH BECKMAN, DEC 7  
CAROL SCHWERTZ, DEC 8  
GABRIELLA FRONCZAK, DEC 8  
CRAIG LINDAUER, DEC 8  
BRYAN HAUSER, DEC 9  
ARIANNA GREINER, DEC 10  
ADRIAN WOJTUSIAK, DEC 11  
STEVEN KEMNA, DEC 11  
ANNA MAKI, DEC 12  
JOHN SCARAFIA, DEC 12  
JOY LEE, DEC 14  
KENNADIE PRESS, DEC 15  
ARLENE ARTH, DEC 15  
SHARRON KRYMAN, DEC 16  
KATRINA GUARINO, DEC 16  
LINH THI YARRINGTON, DEC 17  
LUCILLE KRUPA, DEC 19  
LONDON BUSH, DEC 20  
STACEY FRIEND, DEC 20  
BEVERLY HESS, DEC 21  
ARDEN KRUGER, DEC 21  
MASON KRUGER, DEC 21  
AMY PETRUNYAK, DEC 21  
GERALD LANDAHL, DEC 23  
GREGORY WILDRIDGE, DEC 24  
MARY JO DONHAUSER, DEC 25  
ALICE SHARPE, DEC 27  
KEVIN JACOBS, DEC 28  
PATRICIA KOSTECKY, DEC 28  
MARK ANDREWS, DEC 29  
DIANE THORNTON, DEC 29  
RYAN MCHALE, DEC 29  
OLIVIA FRITZEN, DEC 30  
KARRIANNE HELWIG, DEC 31  
DAVID NESTER, DEC 31





411

**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**

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

**Rev. John Swanson, Pastor Emeritus**

**Rev. John Scarafia, Pastor Emeritus**

**Teresa O'Connor, Vicar**

**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)**

**Sam Gierlinger**

**RaeAnn Jakubowski**

**Jamie Kloc**

**Marjorie Kruger**

**Jeff Miller**

**Samuel Miller**

**David Nester**

**Rich Rice**

**Kelly Sieracki**





ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

55 PLEASANT AVE

LANCASTER NY 14086-2173



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**@stjohnslancaster**



*To us a child is born, to us a son is given...  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*