

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance
of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading
Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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



Psalm 32
Read responsively

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you; at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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



Lenten Gospel Acclamation



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Glory to you, O Lord

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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



The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

What Is the World Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor - just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, James, Nubia Schneider, Jack Kruger, Donna, Michael, Pastor Erik Hart, Marissa Jaskier, and the family and friends of Eleanor Beal and Pat Kostecky). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (especially). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

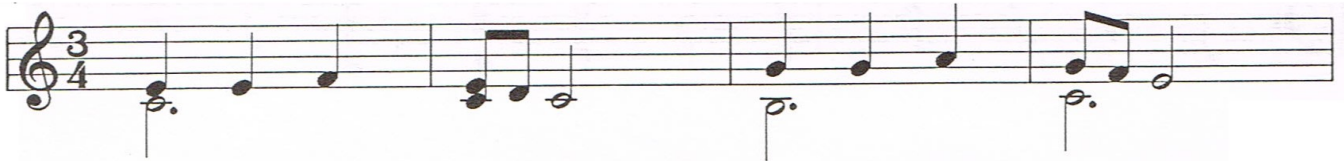
God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Offertory Hymn



1. Meek - ness and maj - es - ty, man - hood and De - i - ty,
 2. Fa - ther's pure ra - di - ance, per - fect in in - no - cence;
 3. Wis - dom un - search - a - ble, God, the in - vis - i - ble;



in per - fect har - mo - ny, the Man who is — God.
 Yet learns o - be - di - ence to death on a — cross.
 Love in - de - struct - i - ble in frail - ty ap - pears.



Lord of e - ter - ni - ty, dwells in hu - man - i - ty;
 Suf - f'ring to give us life, con - quering through sac - ri - fice;
 Lord of in - fin - i - ty, stoop - ing so ten - der - ly;



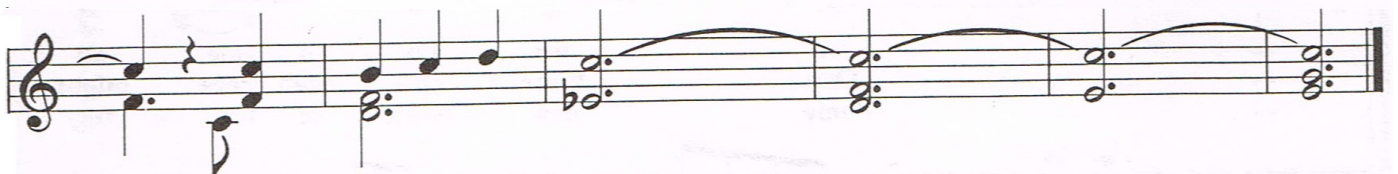
Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty — and — wash - es our feet.
 And as they cru - ci - fy — prays, — "Fa - ther, for - give."
 Lifts our hu - man - i - ty — to the heights of His throne.



O what a mys - ter - y, meek - ness and maj - es - ty;



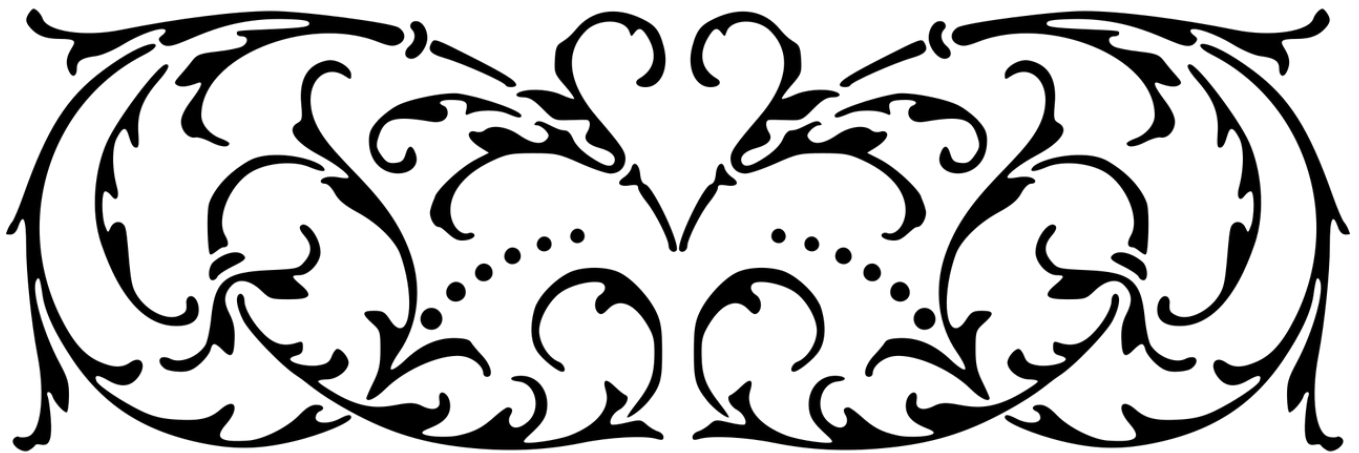
Bow down and wor - ship,



for this is your God.

The Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

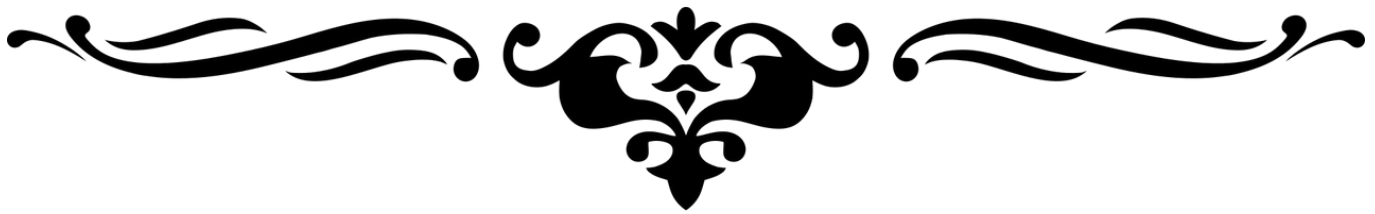
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff includes a common time signature 'C' at the beginning. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The final staff concludes with a double bar line.

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



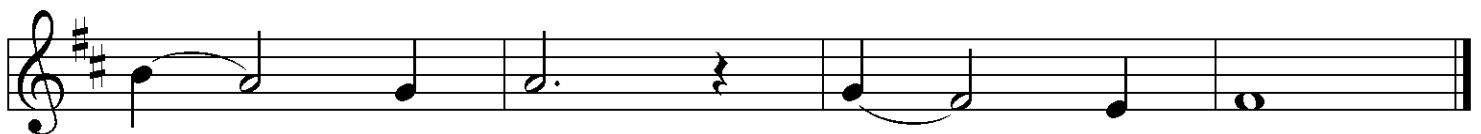
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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
Handbell Choir - *St. Theodore*

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

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

The Sending

Go in peace.

Care for others as God cares for you

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.

We lift up: Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, James, Nubia Schneider, Jack Kruger, Donna, Michael, Pastor Erik Hart, Marissa Jaskier, and the family and friends of Eleanor Beal and Pat Kostecky.

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!



Offering: 3/23/25 - \$1932.00

JANUARY 2025

Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income

\$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday

4 Sundays thru JANUARY '25 =	\$10,336.00
actual thru JANUARY 2025 =	\$8,968.57
difference	-\$1,367.43

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](#)

Ushers

Rich Rice
Rick Tomaszewski

Deacon

Kathy Snyder

Altar Guild

John & Nancy
Scarafia

Altar Flower Dates Available:

4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 - \$30 for two bouquets

Confirmation Class April 6th

St John's Elma & Lancaster Women's Lunch

is Wed April 9th @ 11:30am (NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)
@ Olive Tree. Sign up or call Beverly Hess by April 6th.

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

Please join **Book Club** in the Conference area of the Chapel at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, April 23rd at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, *WARD D*, by Freida McFadden. (Note the day and time changes)

We are looking for volunteers to help **set up Easter Flowers**. If you would like to help, please join us on Saturday, April 19 @ 10am. Thank you!

What Is the World Like

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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This Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	Sunday School Room
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	Sunday School Room

Monday, March 31, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Guiding Eyes	4:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Chordsmen	7:30pm	Chapel

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am	Fellowship Hall
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am - 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:30pm	Sanctuary
Choir Practice	7:30pm	Choir Room

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Fastnacht Day	8:00am	
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Joysingers	9:30am	Sunday School Room
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	Sunday School Room
Confirmation Class	11:00am	Youth Room

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 13TH

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @ 10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 17TH

Supper @ 5:30pm @ St. John's Lancaster

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 18TH

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma

2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 19TH

Worship @ 5:30pm

RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 20TH

Worship @ 10am

Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday

April 13th
from 8-10 am

Free will donations accepted

All are Welcome



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

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, 55 PLEASANT AVE, LANCASTER



For Ages 3- Grade 7
Rain or Shine



Soup Fest

Fellowship Event

Music by Heart to Heart



April 26th
4pm~7pm

Sign up to Enter/Make Soup
Join us for Soup & Fellowship
Donations Accepted

St. John's Lutheran Church ~ 55 Pleasant Ave

Altar Flower Arrangements are \$30 (for 2). To dedicate flowers use the envelopes provided in church or contact the church office by phone (716-683-8972) or email (stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com). Dedications must be submitted by the Monday before the dedication date.

GOT SNEAKERS??? Guiding Eyes for the Blind is having a sneaker drive with a sneaker recycling organization called GotSneakers. If you would like to help, please bring in your used/old sneakers and deposit them in the receptacle in the Fellowship Hall marked GotSneakers? Thank you!

Collecting Dash's Register Receipts: Save your Dash's receipts and deposit them in the boxes in the Sanctuary or the Chapel to benefit Niagara Lutheran Health Services. Thank you!



Easter Flowers Order Form
DEADLINE IS MARCH 30TH

2025 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM: PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY MARCH 30TH

			# of each	subtotal cost
Hyacinths	6" POT	\$9.00	_____	_____
Tulips	6" POT	\$8.00	_____	_____
White Easter Lilies	6" POT	\$12.00	_____	_____
Mini Daffodils	5" POT	\$6.00	_____	_____
Daffodils	6" POT	\$8.00	_____	_____
Hydrangeas (Pink, Blue, White)	3 Blooms	\$17.00	_____	_____
Total # of Plants			_____	
Total Enclosed				_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Picking up this # _____ Donating this # _____

If desired, please include your dedication for Easter Bulletin on the bottom of this form.

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)

Pauline Bauer

Jeff Miller

Sam Gierlinger

Rich Rice

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Paul Rudz

Jamie Kloc

Kelly Sieracki

Marjorie Kruger

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