



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue
Lancaster NY 14086-2173
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THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

March 2022



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.

The Rev. Jamie Retallack
jamesretallack@gmail.com
716-848-9683

WORSHIP TIMES

SAT. 5:30PM
SUN. 9:00AM & 10:30AM
IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP
SUN. 9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

MONDAY-THURSDAY
10:00AM-3:00PM
716-683-8972
STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM
STJOHNSLANC.ORG

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Pastor's Message



My Great Aunt Ruth is someone I have few memories of. I remember she would come over on Christmas morning, and I remember she would come for my birthday party. Unfortunately, a stroke and some other challenges rendered her bedridden in a nursing home, and I was too young to go visit. But what I do have is plenty of stories that the family would tell about Aunt Ruth, many of them revolving around how, shall we say, frugal she was. She would reuse plastic utensils, she would tear napkins in two so there could be twice as many, and the stories went on. They were always good-natured stories about her quirks, but suffice it to say I knew that if there was a penny to be pinched, Aunt Ruth was the type to pinch it. As an adult I know why, she had lived through the great depression and learned a lesson or two about the value of being frugal. Here she was 50 years after the end of the depression, and she was still living her life with those lessons in mind. I've thought of Aunt Ruth a lot as we have reached the two year anniversary of this pandemic, I've wondered what lessons we will take away from those years. Since Lent is a time for reflection it seems appropriate to do so. The verse I keep thinking of is:

*Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.*

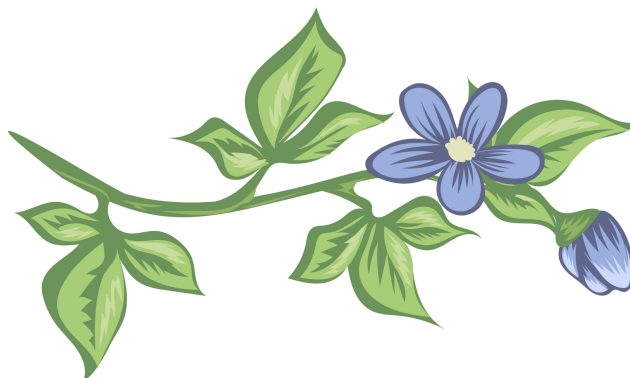
Joel 2:13

These words were written while the people of Israel were dealing with a plague of their own, a plague of locusts. A drought and a locust infestation left the population hungry and desperate. Many of the people turned away from God. They felt that God had done this to them and so they were looking to other sources for answers. Joel was encouraging them to turn back to God to find their answers in him: their comfort, their security, their hope. During Lent we are called to return as well. It isn't locusts or drought that caused us to drift away but the other challenges that life offers. These past two years we have had many challenges: loneliness, uncertainty, health concerns, changing rules and structures, and the list goes on. Joel's words are for us. God is gracious, merciful, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Find your answers, your hope, and whatever else you need in God.

This is when I'm reminded of my Aunt, because the changes stirred up in her in the 1930's continued until the 1990's. I'm not one to speculate on how these years will have changed us and society at large, but I'm sure it will have changed us. So perhaps the reflection isn't about what changes we will see. I'm sure those in the 30's weren't thinking about washing plastic utensils, but rather the point is that no matter what lies ahead, we should be reminded to return to the Lord. When the weight of the world pulls us away, we return. For Joel the challenges were locusts, and for us its a different kind of plague, but this lent, let us return to the LORD all the same.

Peace

Pastor Jamie





Mission Message



ENTERTAINING ANGELS

by Marcia Brown, mission interpreter

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2*

The United States is resettling 75,000 Afghans. Chances are your town is welcoming one or more families. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is playing a major role in making this happen. In fact, the need is so great that an extra office of LIRS has recently opened in Virginia, an office staffed by Afghans, many of whom recently arrived themselves, wanting to help with those countrymen who are still coming. But please don't call them refugees. Because of the circumstances of their departure, they are being referred to as "allies" or "neighbors." These families have experienced massive trauma, and most come here with only a backpack of their belongings, if that. LIRS makes sure they get a roof over their heads, food in their cupboards, and access to medical and mental health care. The organization helps the newly arrived Afghans acclimate to the culture, learn English, find affordable housing, secure furniture and culturally familiar food, enroll children in school, and find employment. LIRS will find foster families for children arriving alone. The new Virginia facility has an active homework club, teaches people to drive and fill out essential forms.

LIRS is an ELCA ministry. You are already helping this effort because of your mission support to the Synod. Thank you!

Here are other ways you can help:

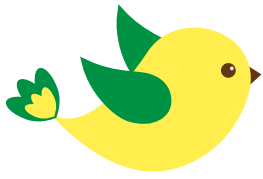
LIRS Circle of Welcome includes co-sponsoring an individual or family.

[Lirs.org/circle-of-welcome](https://lirs.org/circle-of-welcome)

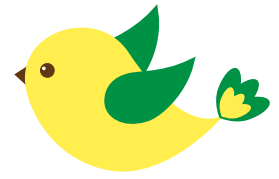
.Opportunities to donate, advocate or volunteer in other capacities. [Lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies](https://lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies).

Financial support. [Elca.org/ldr](https://elca.org/ldr).

*We are church together for the sake of the world.
God's Work. Our Hands.*



March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	28 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 4:30 PM Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30 PM Chordsmen Mtg	1 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM NA Meeting	2 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Ash Wed. Worship	3 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	4 7:30 PM NA Meeting	5 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
6 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	7 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 4:30 PM Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30 PM Chordsmen Mtg	8 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM NA Meeting	9 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Garden Club 7:30 PM LYMA Mtg.	10 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice	11 7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
13 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	14 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 4:30 PM Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30 PM Chordsmen Mtg	15 Good News Articles Due 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM NA Meeting	16 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours	17 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Book Club 7:30 PM Choir Practice	18 7:30 PM NA Meeting	19 11:00 AM Memorial Srvc - Dorothea Konstabel 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
20 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	21 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 4:30 PM Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30 PM Chordsmen Mtg	22 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM NA Meeting	23 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours	24 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Choir Practice	25 7:30 PM NA Meeting	26 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service
27 8:00 AM Fastnacht Sunday 9:00 AM In Person/ Online Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM In Person/ Online Service	28 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 4:30 PM Guiding Eyes Mtg 7:30 PM Chordsmen Mtg	29 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM NA Meeting	30 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours	31 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	1 7:30 PM NA Meeting	2 5:30 PM In Person/ Streamed Service

Council Corner

by: Kathy Konstabel



Hello and welcome to Council Corner:

Many thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting at the end of January. Quorum was met, and we were able to address the business of the church. Though our meeting was long, the discussions about our future ministry in Lancaster were valuable and deeply appreciated by all.

Our agenda included the election of new council members, as well as saying “goodbye” to David Anthony and Gary Rudz. We give thanks for their dedicated service to our Council and to St. Johns. David and Gary were strong leaders who prioritized the care of our church and its members. They will be missed greatly.

In our next installment of Council Corner we will introduce you to our new members, as well as provide an update on our Executive Committee- stay tuned!

As we begin to shift our thoughts to Spring and to Lent, we continue to wish each of you good health and God’s peace.

Until next time--

Congregation Council





Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear People of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One who makes us one, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

As the Upstate New York Synod winds down its fiscal year, and I look back on the first five months in my call as a partner with you in Christ's work, I continually give thanks each time I encounter the amazing generosity you have shown, not only in your own community, but to the Synod, and as part of the Body of Christ in this world. Your continued commitment to God's work in our Synod is an occasion to celebrate the steadfast love of our God.

As a Synod staff we are small, but mighty. Your gifts enable us to continue God's work in our congregations and mission starts, supporting our rostered ministers, raising up candidates for rostered ministry, dreaming together the future the Spirit has in store for us, and equipping lay leadership for the sake of the whole church. Your mission support enables us to accompany congregations in transition, strengthen new missional communities, and enable our deans to be present in times of transition and need. We are grateful.

Your 2022 mission support will help us expand our staff so that we are able to more fully meet you where you are and walk with you as you serve Christ in your community. A portion of our gifts go on to work with our siblings in Christ throughout the ELCA and into the world through supporting new congregations, encouraging the work of evangelists, responding to crisis through Lutheran disaster response, and world hunger. Your commitment to this shared vision and mission truly makes us #churchtogether.

Where will we find God doing a new thing? What neighbors, near and far, cry out for our love and our stewardship? I pray boldly that together we can do this work of justice, sharing God's joy with all we encounter, spreading Christ's message of healing, hope and love.

God bless you in all that is to come; God strengthen you as you carry out Christ's commission; and may the Holy Spirit work in you that which is pleasing in God's sight, for the sake of the world. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Lee M. Miller II
Upstate New York Synod, ELCA
bishopmiller@upstatenysynod.org

Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset
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Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY

1pm Thursdays
During Lent

Book Club Meeting

Thursday, March 17th
7:00pm in Memorial Lounge

Youth Event

Friday, March 18th
@ 7:30pm Seussical

Youth Soup Fundraiser

Prep for Youth
Friday, March 25th @ 6-8pm
Sale
Saturday, March 26th @ 5pm
Sunday, March 27th @ 10am

Fastnacht Sunday

March 27th
8am-Noon

MARCH DEACON SCHEDULE

03/06/2022 9AM
RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI
03/06/2022 1030AM
KATHY KONSTABEL

03/13/2022 9AM
SAM MILLER
03/13/2022 1030AM
SAM GIERLINGER

03/20/2022 9AM
RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI
03/20/2022 1030AM
SAM GIERLINGER

03/27/2022 9AM
KATHY KONSTABEL
03/27/2022 1030AM
SAM MILLER

MARCH ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

03/06/22
TIMMY GIERLINGER
RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI

03/13/2022
SHARON WALKER
CAROL GRAHAM

03/20/22
KELLY SIERACKI

03/27/2022
CHERYL HELWIG
KATHY SNYDER



Book Club



Please join us in the Memorial Lounge on Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 PM to discuss Melissa Payne's novel, *THE NIGHT OF MANY ENDINGS*.

Orphaned at a young age and witness to her brother's decline into addiction, Nora Martinez has every excuse to question the fairness of life. Instead, the openhearted librarian in the small Colorado community of Silver Ridge sees only promise. She holds on to the hope that she'll be reunited with her missing brother and does what she can at the town library.

It's her home away from home, but it's also a sanctuary for others who, like her brother, could use a second chance.

There's Marlene, an elderly loner who believes that, apart from her husband, there's little good left in the world; Jasmine, a troubled teen; Lewis, a homeless man with lost hope and one last wish; and Vlado, the security guard who loves a good book and, from afar, Nora.

As a winter storm buries Silver Ridge, this collection of lonely hearts takes shelter in the library. They'll discover more about each other, and themselves, than they ever knew—and Nora will be forced to question her brother's disappearance in ways she never could have imagined. No matter how stranded in life they feel, this fateful night could be the new beginning they didn't think was possible.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-night-of-many-endings-melissa-payne/1138749108?ean=9781542029254>

Read this emotional character-driven novel about addiction, perceptions of others, and learning to let go. Then come (as your schedule permits!) and share your thoughts and ideas. Friends and guests are always welcome!

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. 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:

March 13th

April 3rd, 17th, 24th

May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Prayer List

We lift up: Elliana Meyers, Zach, Flip Roth, Beatrice Gill, Todd Potter, Debby Taylor, Hans Kiener, Rose Walker, Jean Sucher, James Engelbach, Bob Garbutt, Laura Mosher, Donna Terry, Bernie Lewis, Nance Baranowski, and Jackie Leary, Cheryl Buchholtz.





Happy Birthday!



DAVID SMITH, MAR 1
SARAH FORBES, MAR 1
MAXWELL SALGE, MAR 1
BETSY KAMPHUIS, MAR 1
ROGER GUARINO, MAR 2
ANTHONY SANTUCCI, MAR 2
KATELYN DECAIRE, MAR 3
MICHELLE RICE, MAR 3
ALICIA ROGACKI, MAR 4
LEAH MYERS, MAR 4
BEVERLY FEHR, MAR 4
MATTHEW SHERMAN, MAR 4
MICHAEL SHEEHAN, MAR 5
STEPHEN SCHOTTMAN, MAR 5
MARAXUS MAYER, MAR 5
ELIZABETH SIERACKI, MAR 6
DILLON SNYDER, MAR 6
MIKAYLA DURKIN, MAR 6
ARIANNA WECHTER, MAR 6
ANJA SCHIAVONE, MAR 6
KYLE RUFFNER, MAR 7
AIDAN CARNEY, MAR 7
DANIEL BOOTH, MAR 7
WILLIAM HARDY, MAR 8
THOMAS PORTO, MAR 8
ANTHONY SANTUCCI, MAR 9
KATHERINE SAGE, MAR 9
IRENE HAEFNER, MAR 9
MICHAEL SHEEHAN, MAR 10
GRACE SHEEHAN, MAR 10
MIRIEL JACOBS, MAR 10
PEYTON ANTHONY, MAR 10
BRUCE MEYER, MAR 10
MATTHEW MARTIN, MAR 11
ELLA BOERSCH, MAR 11
LILLIAN BOERSCH, MAR 11
DAVID ANTHONY, MAR 11
SARA VANNORTWICK, MAR 12
THOMAS WNEK, MAR 15
SARAH GAGLIARDI, MAR 15
DARLENE KRAMER, MAR 15
DAVID SAGE, MAR 15
QUINTIN CALHOUN, MAR 16
BRANDON RUFFNER, MAR 17
CLAIRE BUCCIERI, MAR 17
ETHAN GALANTE, MAR 17
SONJA DEMBSKI, MAR 18
JAMES HALE, MAR 18
ELIZABETH WALKER, MAR 18
GERARD CORBETT, MAR 18
JENNIFER STACHERA, MAR 18

MEGAN POWERS, MAR 18
RONALD JR. KJELDGAARD, MAR 19
DAVID KUNSELMAN, MAR 19
MATTHEW ORBAN, MAR 19
JACOB* PUDLEWSKI, MAR 19
JASON TROMMETTER, MAR 19
DALTON BUSH, MAR 20
THOMAS KRAMER, MAR 20
MASON RUSSO, MAR 20
JAMES ENGELBACH-SCHAFFER, MAR 20
CEDAR WILLADSEN, MAR 20
TOM BURGIO, MAR 20
JEROME MAYER, MAR 21
ASHLIE KOHLHAGEN, MAR 21
MARIE RUSSO, MAR 21
PAUL DYKSTRA, MAR 22
MEGAN LINDAUER, MAR 22
KENNETH, III REITMEIER, MAR 22
TIMOTHY STRANC, MAR 22
MEGAN KIENER, MAR 22
TAYLOR KIENER, MAR 22
KRISTOFFER SCHIAVONE, MAR 22
KURT STUTZMAN, MAR 24
STEVEN BRANKA, MAR 24
ROWAN BRAUN, MAR 24
CHRISTINE RUFFNER, MAR 25
LEO GRUCELLA, MAR 26
BRUCE JACOBS, MAR 26
SARALYNN NANTKA, MAR 26
EDITH VALLONE, MAR 26
HOLLY SMITH, MAR 26
CASEY BROCK, MAR 27
CANDIS O'MEARA, MAR 27
JEAN CONKLIN, MAR 27
NORAH HARRINGTON, MAR 27
ADDISON COST, MAR 27
SARA BAYER, MAR 28
AUBREE LACORTE, MAR 28
KATHRYN WILDRIDGE, MAR 28
EMILIA REFERMAT, MAR 28
TRACEY FROST, MAR 29
KEVIN MCHALE, MAR 29
MARGARET SAVASH, MAR 29
SYDNEY BROCK, MAR 29
VICKY CHANG, MAR 29
JULIE BUCCIERI, MAR 29
DEBORAH MASTRANGELO, MAR 30
GRETCHEN SNYDER, MAR 30
DANIELLE ZAK, MAR 30
DIANE MENICHELLI, MAR 31
DIANE STOWBUNENKO, MAR 31



St. John's Yellow Pages

SERVICES AND COMPANIES

Bunny Boteler **Bunny's Motor Sports** (small engine repair) 684-7650

Julie Buccieri **Lancaster Lady Monsters** (youth lacrosse) 807-5732

Mike Durkin **HDE Electric** 674-7259

Darlene Kramer **Cleaning & Laundry, Errands** 937-4179

Rachel Poss **Partylite Candles & Gifts/Parties** 491-4393

Christine Ruffner **Usborne Children's Educational Books** 656-2056

Michael Sheehan **Computer & Software Sales** 937-9815

Tim Stranc (TSAir) **Heating & Air-Conditioning** 684-9854

Brian Makey **Thrivent Financial Representative**

Brian.makey@thrivent.com 714-9852

Anthony Santucci **Walden Auto Sales & Service** 683-2901

STAFF MEMBERS

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, Lucy Krupa **Cleaners**

Michael Walker **Sexton**

Donna McGrew **Financial Secretary**

Melissa Dwyer **Church Secretary**

