

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

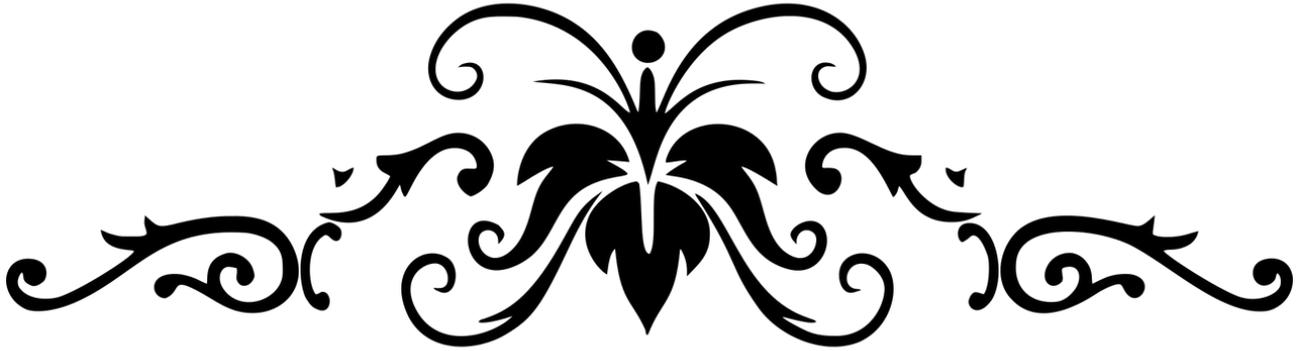


Saturday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

Third Saturday in Lent
March 22, 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.**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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
Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Psalm 63:1-8
Read responsively

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**



Second Reading
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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.

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The Gospel Luke 13:1-9 **Glory to you, O Lord**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

LBW 341

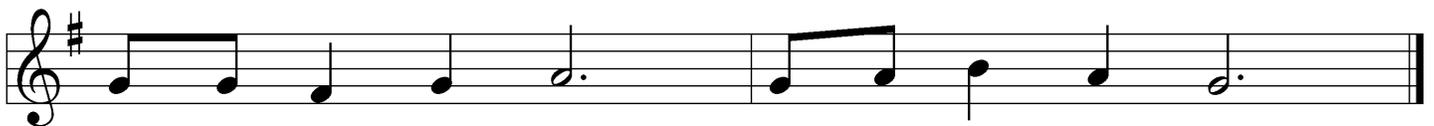
Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701



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.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (especially). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Pat Kostecky, James, Nubia Schneider, Jack, Melanie, Donna, Michael, Pastor Erik Hart, Marissa Jaskier, and the family and friends of Tom Stobnicki and Eleanor Beal). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (especially). May their witness inspire our own. 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

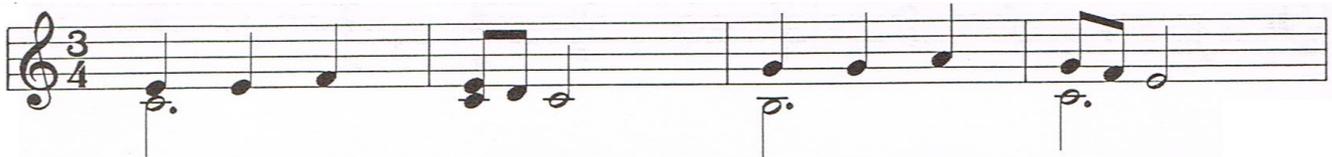
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

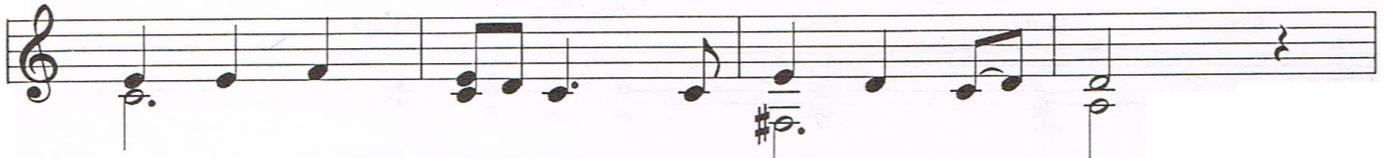
The Sharing of the Peace

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

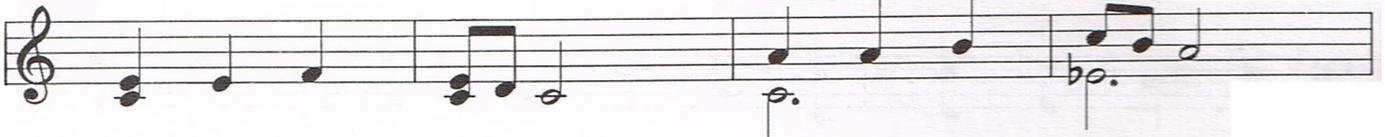
The Gathering of the Gifts



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;



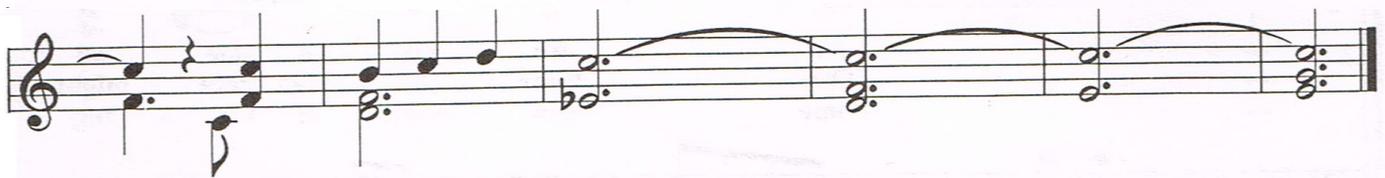
Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty — and — wash - es our feet.
 And as they cru - ci - fy — prays, — "Fa - ther, for - give."
 Lifts our hu - man - i - ty — to the heights of His throne.



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



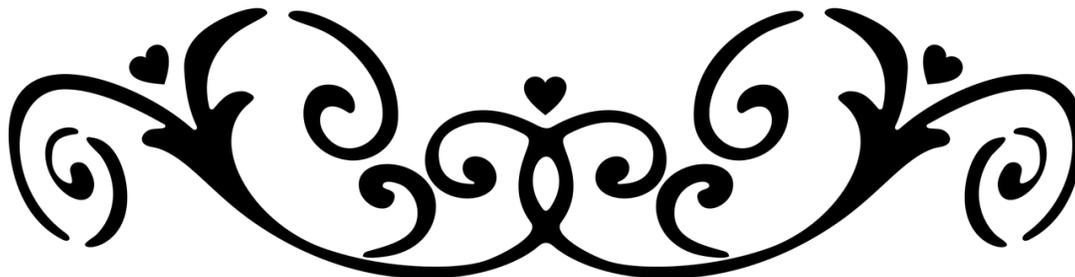
— Bow down and wor - ship, —



— 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 gather at your table:

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

**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



Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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, Pat Kostecky, James, Nubia Schneider, Jack, Melanie, Donna, Michael, Pastor Erik Hart, Marissa Jaskier, and the family and friends of Tom Stobnicki and Eleanor Beal

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: 3/16/25 - \$1545.16

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](#)

Altar Flower Dates Available:

3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 - \$30 for two bouquets

Confirmation Classes March 9 & 23

YOUTH

Lock-in Event. Mar 22 @ 7pm thru Mar 23 @ 9am @ St John's Lancaster: Activities planned = Using new game room on 3rd floor, make your own pizza, and devos. Bring a friend, sleep gear and overnight items. Breakfast and snacks provided. Morning clean-up begins @ 8am.

Sunday Morning Bible Study will not meet on March 16th and 23rd.

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

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.

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)

Ushers

Linda Costa
Kathy Burr

Deacon

RaeAnn
Jakubowski

Altar Guild

Kathy
Snyder

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Event	Time	Location
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

Monday, March 24, 2025

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

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

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

Thursday, March 27, 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, March 29, 2025

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

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

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





Easter Flowers Order Form

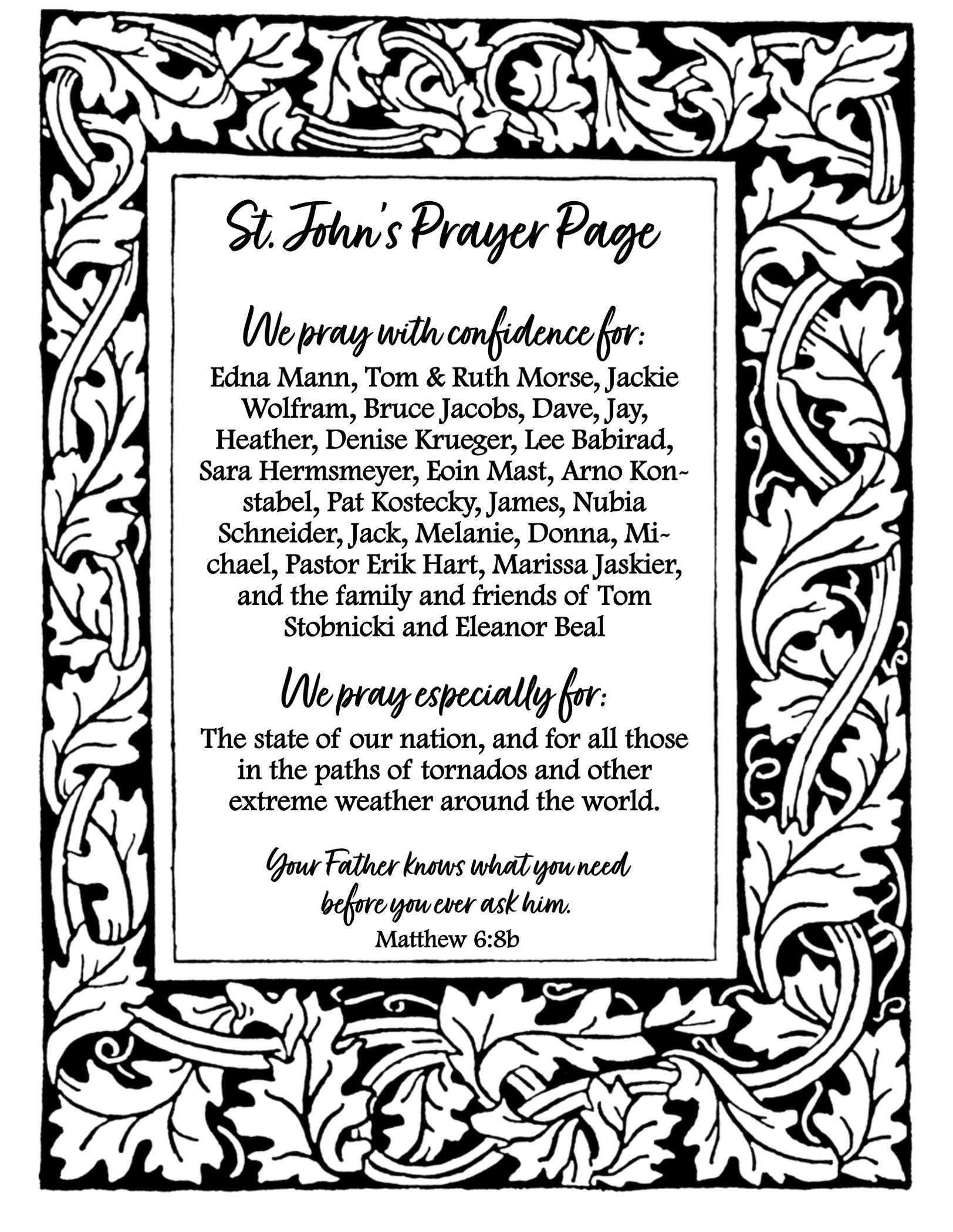
2025 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM: PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY MARCH 30TH

			# 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.



St. John's Prayer Page

We pray with confidence for:

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

We pray especially for:

The state of our nation, and for all those in the paths of tornados and other extreme weather around the world.

*Your Father knows what you need
before you ever ask him.*

Matthew 6:8b



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

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