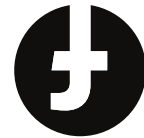




St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
55 Pleasant Avenue  
Lancaster NY 14086-2173  
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@stjohnslancaster

**Follow us on Facebook!**

*For 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.*  
Isaiah 9:6-7

# THE GOOD NEWS

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

December 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**

**SUN. 10:30AM**

**IN PERSON/ONLINE WORSHIP**

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**

**10:00AM-3:00PM**

**716-683-8972**

**STJOHNSLANCASTER55@GMAIL.COM**

**STJOHNSLANC.ORG**

## IN THIS ISSUE

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

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**MISSION MESSAGE**

**CALENDAR**

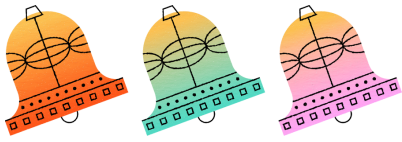
**SCHEDULES & EVENTS**

**FLOWERS & PRAYER LIST**

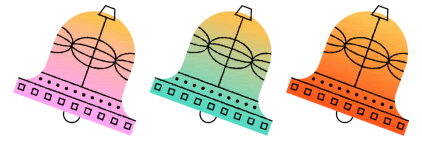
**BIRTHDAYS**

**YELLOW PAGES**

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## Pastor's Message



This is a time of year that is full of traditions. Thanksgiving, Christmas, even New Year's all have their respective traditions. I think that many of us try to keep those traditions going from one year to the next. I've been thinking of one tradition that my family had that I won't be able to pass on. Every New Year's Eve my family and I would go to the local Blockbuster and pick out some movies to watch as we waited for the new year to strike. Now if we wanted to go to Blockbuster, we'd have to travel to Bend, Oregon, the location of the last Blockbuster in existence. Even if we did, we would have no way to play the video since we don't have a VCR, DVD or Blu-ray player in the house. Times change quickly. Now you rent movies over the internet from your cable company, or some streaming service. Physical disks or cassettes are quickly becoming a thing of the past. That's the way of things. It reminds me of a beloved Psalm that reminds us to not be afraid of changes and new things:

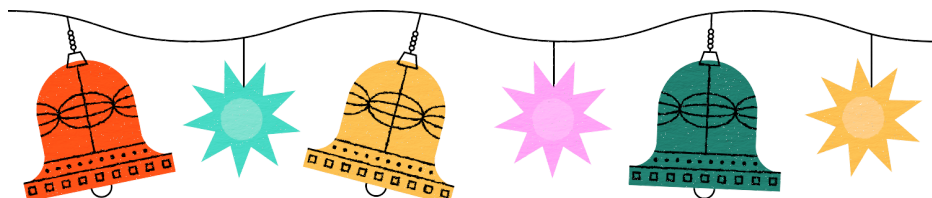
*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Psalm 96*

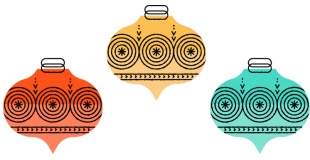
The council has been discussing a potential change which we will put before the congregation at the annual meeting (the last Sunday in January). We have discussed moving to one service on Sunday at 9:30 (Saturday would remain at 5:30). We know that this would necessitate everyone changing their Sunday routines, shifting 30 minutes later or one hour earlier. We feel, however, that this is an opportunity to sing to the LORD a new song. This could help the service to feel livelier and more energetic with all of us there at the same time. For instance, imagine how much more engaging the hymns would be with all of us singing together. It would mean when the choir, the joy singers or the bells perform we would all get to enjoy it, maybe even encourage some early service folks to join the choir. It would also mean that we could all be in fellowship together, no longer having folks you haven't seen because they are at the other service. We believe this change could have many benefits.

Psalm 96 reminds us that even though things change, God is constant. God will be with us through all the changes the world can throw at us. It also reminds us that God is the one leading us, calling us in those changes. We invite your comments and feedback and look forward to discussing this potential change at the annual meeting.

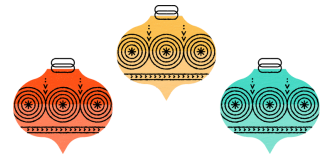
Peace

*Jamie*





# Council Corner

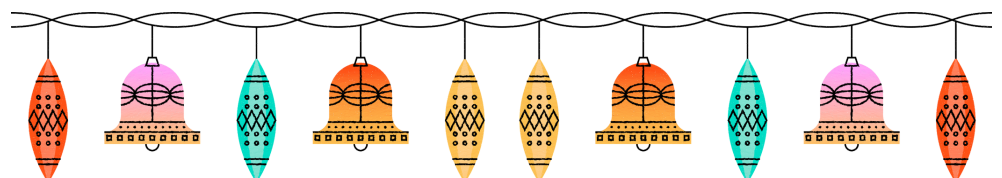


*Away in a Manger. Oh Little Town of Bethlehem. Here Comes Santa Claus. Joy to the World. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. Jingle Bells. Oh Come All Ye Faithful. Silent Night, Holy Night. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. The First Noel. Holly Jolly Christmas. Feliz Navidad. It's Beginning to Look A lot Like Christmas. Santa Claus is Coming to Town. The Little Drummer Boy. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. Jingle Bells.* So many melodic tunes, accompanied by amazing lyrics, that are part and parcel of this Holiday Season we've just entered into. Yes, tis the season!!

As a happy and carefree youngster, I remember hearing all those songs and more, singing some too, as I joined my mother, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins and other church members attending services at St. John's Lutheran in Lancaster. I was baptized, went to and taught Sunday School, was confirmed and made my First Holy Communion at 'our' church. Then after college I moved away, and the wonderment I felt as a youth was disappearing. It was being replaced by living on my own, developing my independence, finding my own way in the rat race we call life. I lived out of state for many years, met and married who I thought would be my forever mate, and brought two precious children into the world. My heart swelled with pride and joy at the birth of Jennifer and Kyle, yet I longed for the safe haven that St. John's always was for me. I knew the only way to quell that longing would be to return to the Lancaster-Depew area, and my beloved St. John's. Years passed, and life brought many challenges and changes. My mom passed, and then dad took ill. He needed help, and I needed to help him, so I returned ... the prodigal child to his master. I arrived mid-week and attended service that Sunday, feeling blessed at the warm welcome I received. I'm thankful to be here as a member of St. John's, to sing in Choir, to assist with Altar Guild, to usher and of course, to be on Council. It's an honor, and a responsibility that I want to fulfill to the best of my ability.

I'm no longer a carefree youngster. But I'm back in my safe haven where I feel I belong. God has given me, and all of us, so many talents that he wants us to use and share. So please *Come All Ye Faithful* to celebrate *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. Celebrate the Magic of Christmas ... the birth of the Christ Child *Away in a Manger* in that Little Town of Bethlehem who came unto us on a Clear Midnight. That birth brought *Joy to the World* in a Silent and Holy Night. Yes, Hark the Herald, the Angels did sing. It was *the First Noel*. And yes, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, and soon it will begin to look a lot like Christmas. Let's jingle our bells, and drum our drums. Most importantly, let us remember always that God bestows his Peace on all of us, not because of anything we do, but because of who HE is. To that I say, AMEN.

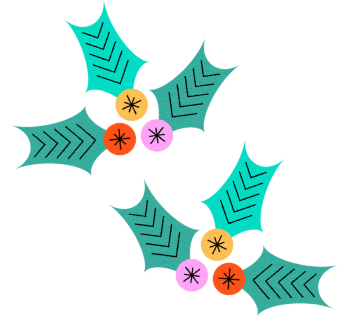
Faithfully,  
*Carol Graham*  
Church Council





# Mission Message

Marcia Brown, mission interpreter



## RESCUING REFUGEES

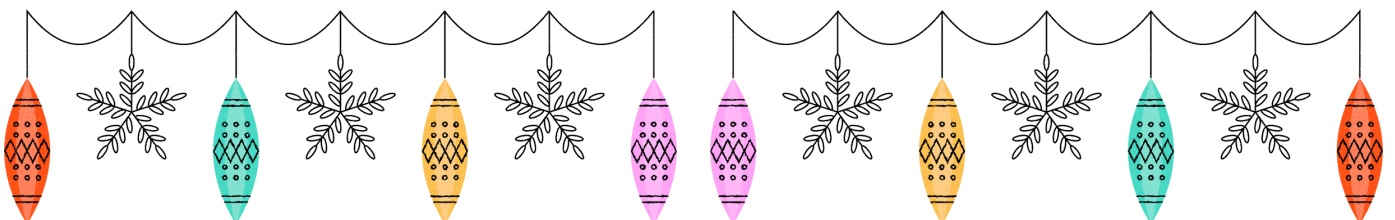
The Mediterranean Sea separates Africa from Europe. Every year, tens of thousands of migrants try to cross in flimsy old wooden boats or inflatables that are loaded beyond their capacity. They are escaping famine, poverty, violence, and war, and hoping for asylum in any country that will accept them. And, every year, hundreds of them drown when the weather is too much for their little craft. Germany runs a non-profit called Sea-Eye which rescues those in danger on the Mediterranean. Its ship, the Sea-Eye 4, was a supply ship built in 1979 well-designed for rescue operations, but it was converted with funds from ELCA World Hunger to include updated electronic and nautical equipment, new accommodations, and the addition of a large, up-to-date infirmary.

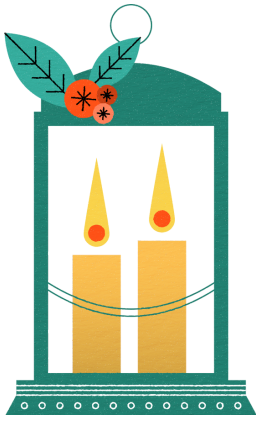
When a migrant boat in danger is spotted, the Sea-Eye 4 goes into action. During one mission in May, 409 people were rescued over 48 hours; In June, another 494 were rescued. They are about half & half men and women, and an estimated 30% of the women are pregnant. Aboard the ship, they get medical attention, a warm bed, and food. And a safe ride across the sea to Europe.

Because of your congregation's mission support, operations like the Sea-Eye 4 can help those in dire need. **Thank you!**

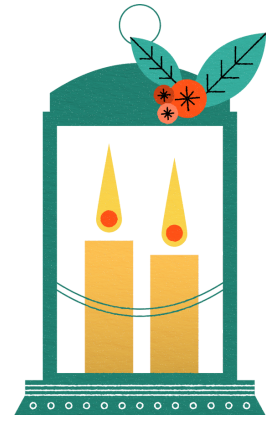
*We are church together for the sake of the world.*

*God's Work. Our Hands.*





# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:00am In Person/ Online Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Joysingers 10:30am In Person/ Online Service	<b>28</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>29</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>1</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm K Snyder Family Baking 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>4</b> 9:00am In Person/ Online Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Joysingers 10:30am In Person/ Online Service	<b>5</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>6</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 6:00pm Garden Club Christmas Party	<b>8</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>9</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>10</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>11</b> 9:00am In Person/ Online Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Joysingers 10:30am In Person/ Online Service	<b>12</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>13</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>15</b> Good News Articles Due 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>17</b> 5:30pm In Person Service
<b>18</b> 9:00am In Person/ Online Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Joysingers 10:30am In Person/ Online Service	<b>19</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>20</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>21</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm Blue Xmas - Longest Night Service	<b>22</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Worship 10:30pm Worship
<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 4:30pm Guiding Eyes Mtg 5:15pm LYMA Golf 7:30pm Chordsmen Mtg	<b>27</b> 9:30am Quilters 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm NA Meeting	<b>28</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours	<b>29</b> 10:00am - 3:00pm Church Office Hours 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>31</b>



# Upcoming Schedules

## USHER SCHEDULE

**12/04/2022 9AM**  
**RICH RICE**  
**GREG WILDRIDGE**  
**12/04/2022 1030AM**  
**CAROL GRAHAM**  
**BEVERLY HESS**

**12/11/2022 9AM**  
**SAM MILLER**  
**DAVID RICE**  
**12/11/2022 1030AM**  
**RICK TOMASZEWSKI**  
**VIRGINIA GRAHAM**

**12/18/2022 9AM**  
**RICH RICE**  
**GREG WILDRIDGE**  
**12/18/2022 1030AM**  
**LINDA COSTA**  
**KATHY BURR**

**12/24/2022 630PM**  
**RICK TOMASZEWSKI**  
**TBD**  
**12/24/2022 1030PM**  
**TBD**  
**TBD**

**01/01/2022 930AM**  
**RICK TOMASZEWSKI**  
**BEVERLY HESS**

## DEACON SCHEDULE

**12/04/2022 9AM**  
**SAM MILLER**  
**12/04/2022 1030AM**  
**KATHY SNYDER**

**12/11/2022 9AM**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**  
**12/11/2022 1030AM**  
**KATHY SNYDER**

**12/18/2022 9AM**  
**SAM MILLER**  
**12/18/2022 1030AM**  
**KATHY SNYDER**

**12/24/2022 630PM**  
**SAM MILLER**  
**12/24/2022 1030PM**  
**SAM MILLER**

**01/01/2023 930AM**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**

## ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

**12/04/22**  
**AMY PETRUNYAK**  
**KAREN FREUND**

**12/11/2022**  
**TIMMY GIERLINGER**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**

**12/18/22**  
**SHARON WALKER**  
**CAROL GRAHAM**

**12/24/2022 630PM**  
**KELLY SIERACKI**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**  
**TIMMY GIERLINGER**

**12/24/2022 1030PM**  
**KELLY SIERACKI**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**  
**TIMMY GIERLINGER**

**1/1/2023 930AM**  
**KELLY SIERACKI**  
**RAEANN JAKUBOWSKI**  
**TIMMY GIERLINGER**



*Holiday Worship  
Schedule 2022-23*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30pm and 10:30pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**


Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
NO SERVICES

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
NO SERVICES

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
@ 9:30am.





# **Upcoming Events**

**LANCASTER GARDEN CLUB**

**Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 7th @6pm**

**SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE**

**Deadline for Donations:**

**Sunday, December 11th**

**LYMA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Wednesday, December 14th**

**@ Ripa's**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30am**

**Special Guests: Queen City Chordsmen**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

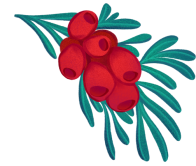
**Tuesday, December 27th @ 7pm**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 29th**



# 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 11  
January 1, 15, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 19, 26



## Prayer List

We lift up: Elliana Meyers, Flip Roth,  
Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood,  
Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale,  
George Stubblebein, Tom Donhauser,  
Bernie Lewis, Gloria Richards,  
Aspen Dantzer, and the family  
and friends of Art Plant.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BROOKLYN WHITE, DEC 1  
ALEXANDER ORBAN, DEC 1  
MADELYN REFERMAT, DEC 1  
SHIRLEY KLOC, DEC 2  
JOSHUA HOFFMAN, DEC 2  
CECELIA STRANC, DEC 2  
MIRANDA HARDY, DEC 2  
MARIAH KERWIN, DEC 3  
CAYLEIGH SCIA, DEC 3  
ALAN SCHRUTT, DEC 4  
ELIZABETH ANDREWS, DEC 4  
THOMAS FROST, DEC 4  
JAIME NANTKA, DEC 5  
BREANNA ALDINGER, DEC 5  
CAROL GRAHAM, DEC 5  
RACHEL TOMASZEWSKI, DEC 6  
JONATHAN VANNORTWICK, DEC 6  
ELLA FECHER, DEC 6  
SARAH BECKMAN, DEC 7  
JACOB DEWALD, DEC 7  
GABRIELLA FRONCZAK, DEC 8  
CRAIG LINDAUER, DEC 8  
CAROL SCHWERTZ, DEC 8  
KEVIN MURTHA, DEC 8  
BRYAN HAUSER, DEC 9  
ARIANNA GREINER, DEC 10  
ROBERT RZEZNIK, DEC 11  
LAURIE MANGOLD, DEC 11  
ADRIAN WOJTUSIAK, DEC 11  
STEVEN KEMNA, DEC 11  
ANNA MAKI, DEC 12  
JOHN SCARAFIA, DEC 12  
JOY LEE, DEC 14  
TIMOTHY ROGACKI, DEC 15  
ARLENE ARTH, DEC 15  
KENNADIE PRESS, DEC 15  
KATRINA GUARINO, DEC 16

SHARRON KRYMAN, DEC 16  
TAYLOR MAKI, DEC 16  
LINH THI YARRINGTON, DEC 17  
HOLLY VOLINO, DEC 18  
STEVEN REINER, DEC 18  
THOMAS III MORSE, DEC 18  
LUCILLE KRUPA, DEC 19  
TIFFANY SUAREZ, DEC 20  
STACEY FRIEND, DEC 20  
LONDON BUSH, DEC 20  
AMY PETRUNYAK, DEC 21  
ANTHONY CERVI, DEC 21  
MASON KRUGER, DEC 21  
BEVERLY HESS, DEC 21  
ARDEN KRUGER, DEC 21  
GERALD LANDAHL, DEC 23  
GREGORY WILDRIDGE, DEC 24  
MARJORIE MURPHY, DEC 24  
SEBASTIAN PERNA, DEC 24  
WYATT PREUSCH, DEC 24  
MARY DONHAUSER, DEC 25  
THERESA CRISP, DEC 26  
ALICE SHARPE, DEC 27  
GIANNA KRATHAUS, DEC 27  
ELLIOTT PATER, DEC 27  
PATRICIA KOSTECKY, DEC 28  
KEVIN JACOBS, DEC 28  
DOUGLAS PEITA, DEC 29  
JOSHUA SCOTT, DEC 29  
JENNIFER MURTHA, DEC 29  
MARK ANDREWS, DEC 29  
RYAN MCHALE, DEC 29  
DIANE THORNTON, DEC 29  
OLIVIA FRITZEN, DEC 30  
LAWRENCE BARTOS, DEC 30  
KARRIANNE HELWIG, DEC 31  
DAVID NESTER, DEC 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, **Housekeeping**

Michael Walker, **Sexton**

Donna McGrew, **Financial Secretary**

Melissa Dwyer **Church Secretary**



# ST. JOHN'S 411

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)

Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson

-Rev. John Scarafia

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)

[www.stjohnslanc.org](http://www.stjohnslanc.org)

[stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com)

## **Congregation Council**

Kathy Konstabel, President

Janet Sincebaugh, Vice-President

Karen McClintock, Secretary

Kathryn Snyder, Treasurer

Linda Dean

Sam Gierlinger

Carol Graham

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Jamie Kloc

Samuel Miller

David Nester

Rich Rice

Kelly Sieracki



