

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

1st Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 1, 2024

The Prelude  
The Greetings



The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.



## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world,  
reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

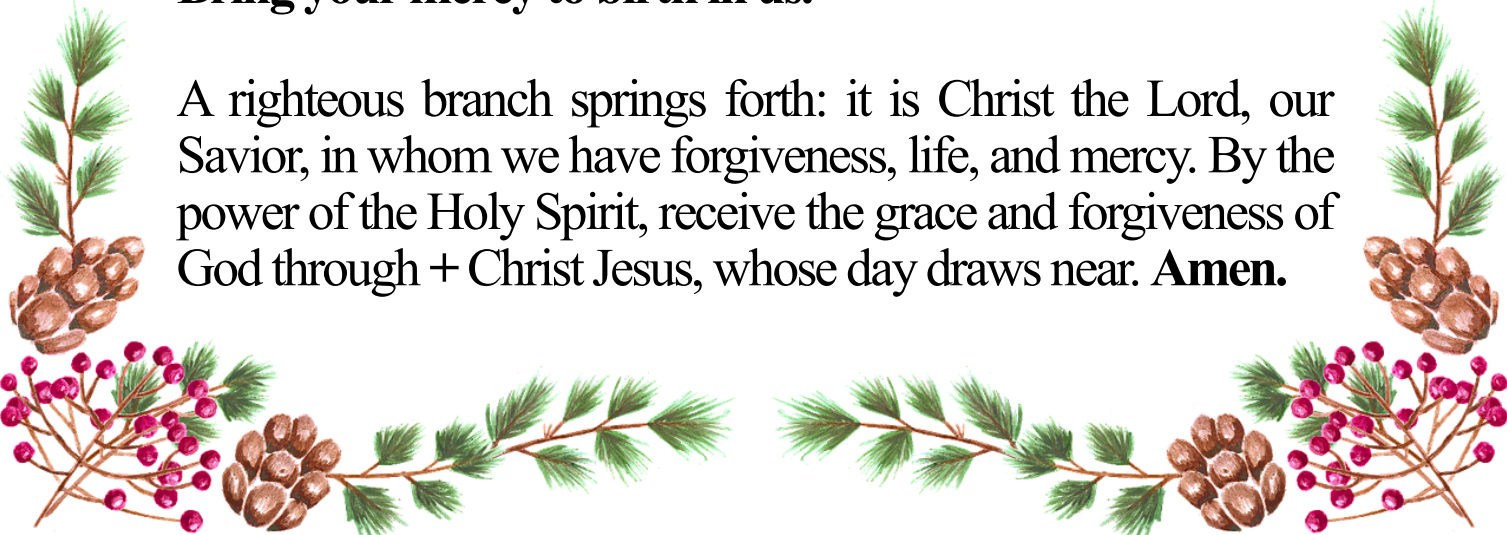
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one  
another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers  
and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to  
false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away  
from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

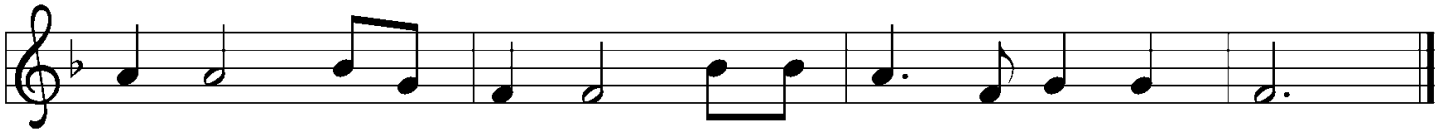
God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.  
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**



A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our  
Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the  
power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of  
God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*My Lord, What a Morning**Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual



## The Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading  
Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

Psalm 25:1-10  
*Read Responsively*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,  
and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast  
love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees**

Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

## The Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### The Gospel Reading : Luke 21:25-36

#### Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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



The Sermon  
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day

ACS 905

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



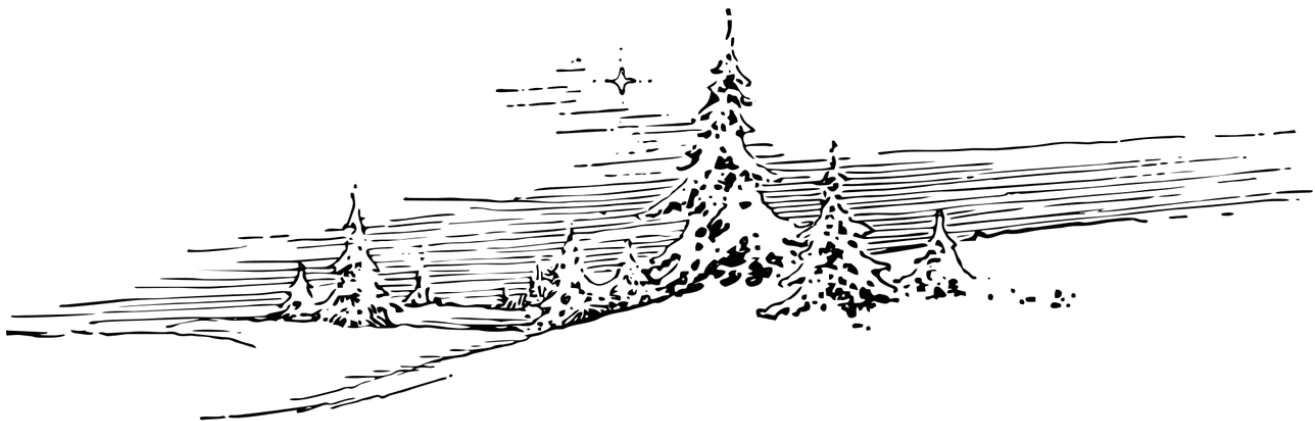
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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## Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (especially Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, George Stubblebein, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Ron Bennett, Roger Stapleton Jr, Tom & Ruth Morse, Tracy Will, Jackie Wolf-ram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Eoin Mast, Madelyn, Arno Konstabel, and the family & friends of Howard Willson, and Fred Greanof). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another (especially through [local ministries] supported by this congregation). Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (especially). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,  
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**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

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

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

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

## The Offertory Music

### The Offertory Hymn



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune  
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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### The Offertory Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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.



## 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



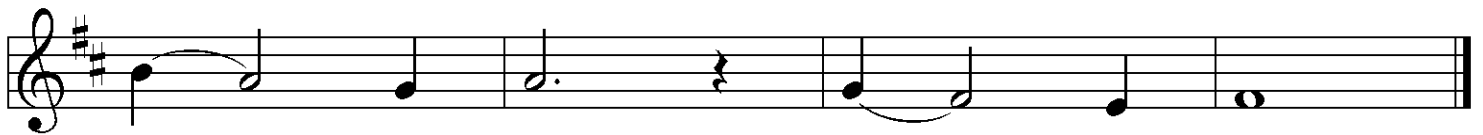
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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

## 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 God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

## The Benediction



*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune



The Sending  
 Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# The People of St. John's Welcome You to 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.

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday	12/1	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	12/1	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	12/1	10:00am	Worship & Sunday School Advent 1
Sunday	12/1	11am	Confirmation Class
Monday	12/2	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	12/2	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	12/3	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	12/3	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	12/5	1pm	Bible Study
Thursday	12/5	6:30pm	Handbell
Thursday	12/5	7pm	Book Club
Thursday	12/5	7:30pm	Choir
Saturday	12/7	3-8pm	YOUTH: Friendsgiving
Saturday	12/7	5:30pm	Worship
Sunday	12/8	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	12/8	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	12/8	10:00am	Worship & Sunday School Advent 2
Sunday	12/8	11:00am	Property & Grounds

## 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!



## Altar Flower Dates Available:

12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29 - \$30 for two bouquets

### Ushers

Bev Hess  
Rich Rice

### Deacon

Kathy  
Snyder

### Altar Guild

Kelly  
Sieracki

Offering: 11/24/24: \$1887.00

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

**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!

### Book Club

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 5th @ 7pm to discuss the novel, THE ECHO OF OLD BOOKS, by Barbara Davis.

## CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation Classes** December 1st, 15th; January 12th, 26th; February 9th, 23rd; March 9th, 23rd; April 6th; May 4th, 18th; & June 1st, 15th from 11am-12:45pm. @ St John's Lancaster.

It's **Angel Tree** time! Tags will be available on trees upstairs and downstairs, **starting Nov. 9th**. Please take a tag and replace it with a star. You may purchase the gift listed (or something similar), 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.

**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.

**Sunday School!** Ages 3- grade 8 and our Youth, may join us for learning, fun and fellowship! We begin in church @ 10am and then move across the hall for lessons and more. On a few selected Sundays, we will attend the church service and help out in various ways. If you can't make it today, join us when you can, and bring family and friends any time.

**Joysingers!** Sundays from 9:30-9:55. We are looking for singers from age 3 to 99+! We sing about once a month. Join us when you are able!

## YOUTH

### **White Elephant Christmas Party: 12/15 4pm-7pm**

Bring a \$5-\$10 Unisex Wrapped gift

Snacks & beverages provided

Decorate Cookies, Carols, Play Games

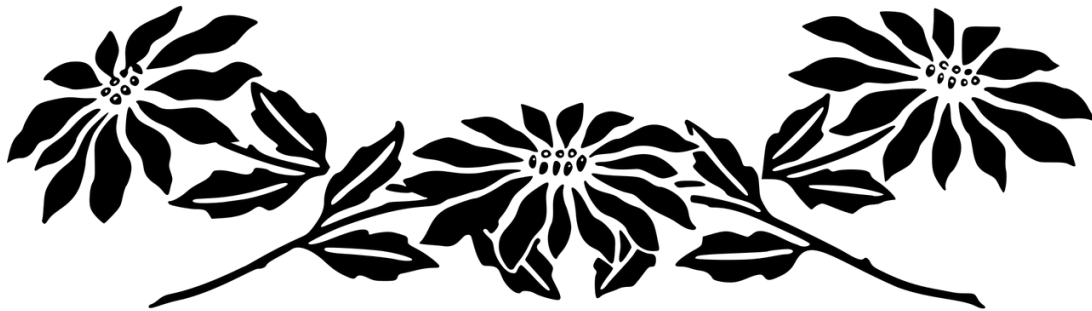
We are looking for **board games for the Youth Game Room**. If you have games you are no longer using, please consider donating them to the Youth by placing them in the basket outside the church office.. Thank you!

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9 am in the Memorial Lounge.**

We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke.

### **Thursday afternoon Bible Study meets at 1:00 pm.**

We will be studying the Books of First and Second Corinthians. Come join the discussion in the area adjacent to the Chapel downstairs.



If you would like to add a name to the **prayer list**, you may drop a request in the collection basket or contact the office by phone or email. If you have a more specific concern/prayer, and would like it added to the **prayer page**, you may fill out a card in the Memorial Lounge, and put it on one of the **prayer boards**. Names and “special requests” will be read during the Prayers of the Church and will appear on the Prayer Page in the bulletins.



## *St. John's Prayer Page*

*We pray with hope for:*

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  
Arno Konstabel.

*We pray especially for:*

HOPE for all who despair this Advent  
season, as we await and prepare for  
the coming of our Savior and Lord,  
Emmanuel, God With Us.

*Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything.  
With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.  
Philippians 4:6*



2024

# Holiday Schedule

**BLUE CHRISTMAS/LONGEST NIGHT**

**December 21st @ 7pm**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**December 22nd @ 10am**

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

**December 24th @ 5pm (Elma)**

**December 24th @ 7pm**

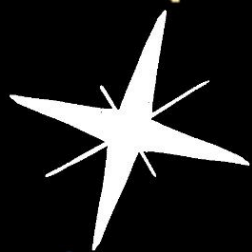
**December 24th @ 10:30pm**



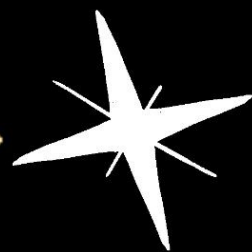


# *Women's Christmas Fellowship*

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**







# 'TIS THE SEASON

**Salvation Army**

*Angel Tree*



**November 9th  
thru December 8th**

## **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](http://www.stjohnslanc.org)

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

## **Congregation Council**

Janet Sincebaugh (President)

Carol Graham (Vice-President)

Karen McClintock (Secretary)

Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Sam Gierlinger

Samuel Miller

RaeAnn Jakubowski

David Nester

Jamie Kloc

Rich Rice

Marjorie Kruger

Kelly Sieracki

Jeff Miller

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