

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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683



4th Sunday after Epiphany  
February 2, 2025

The Prelude  
The Greetings



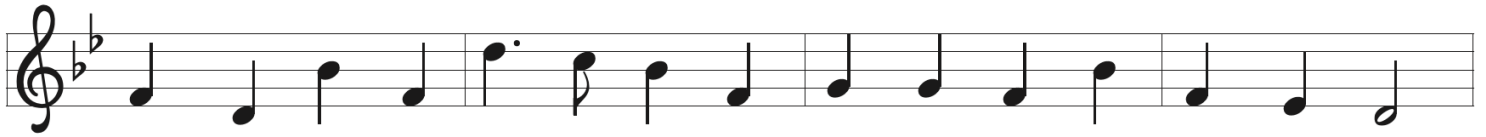
Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator,  
our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879



## The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...**Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The First Reading  
Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak,  
for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and  
the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

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



Psalm 71:1-6  
*Read responsively*

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

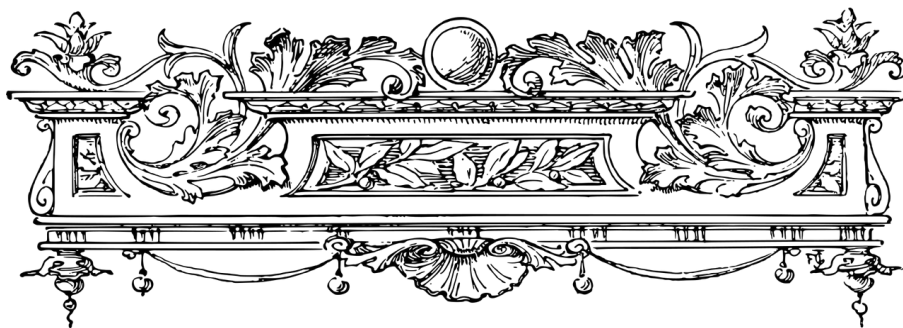
**In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.

**Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

**Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.**



Second Reading  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 4:21-30

#### **Glory to you, O Lord**

Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

The Sermon

Rev. Jamie Retallack



*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
 2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
 till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the Gen - tiles un - to your ho - ly hill,  
 till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

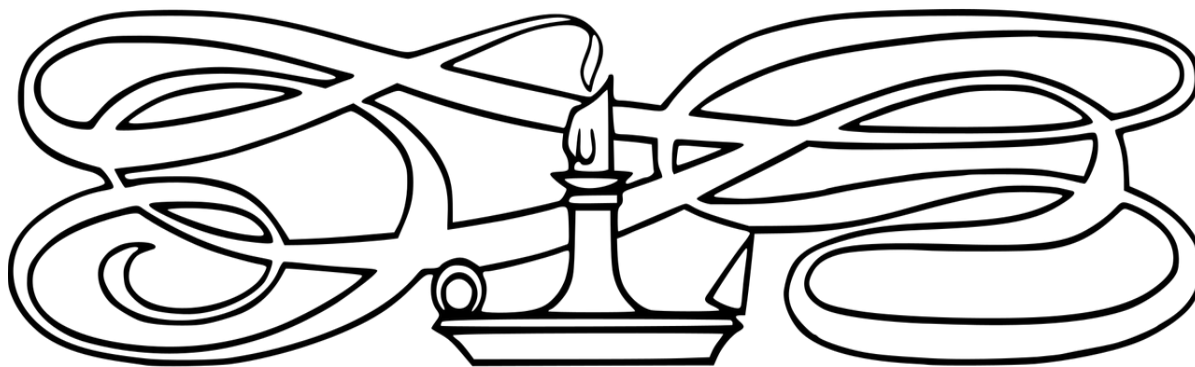
Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune, 19th cent.

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## Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Lee Babirad, Denise Krueger, Susan Wilson, Lisa J, Donna, Carol A, Dee, Linda Dean, Andrea, Cindy, Henrietta Rutkowski, and the friends and family of Raymond Roth). Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 of grace, hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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  
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### The Offertory Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



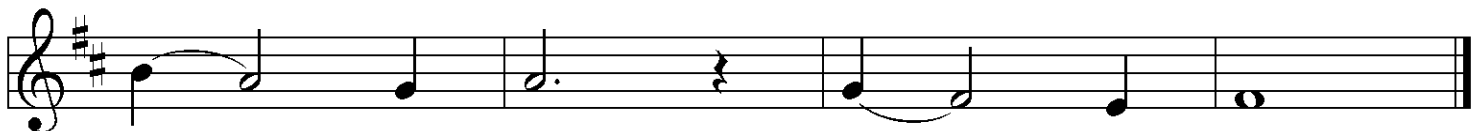
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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.**

## 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

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

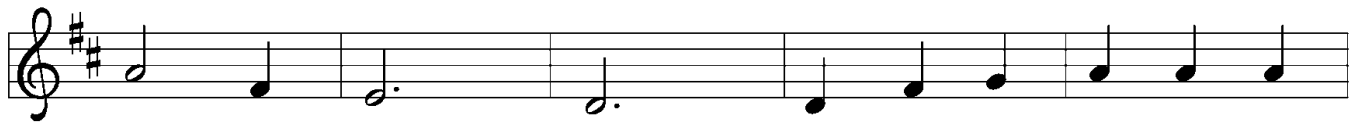
## The Benediction



*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
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The Sending  
 Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslancaster)

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	2/2	9am	Bible Study
Sunday	2/2	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	2/2	10:00am	Worship Sunday School
Monday	2/3	4:00pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	2/3	7:30pm	Queen City Chordsmen
Tuesday	2/4	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	2/4	7pm	NA Meeting
Thursday	2/6	1pm	Bible Study
Thursday	2/6	6:30pm	Handbell Practice
Thursday	2/6	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Saturday	2/8	5:30pm	Worship
Sunday	2/9	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	2/9	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	2/9	10:00am	Sunday School Worship
Sunday	2/9	11am	Confirmation Class
Sunday	2/9	11:30am	Property & Grounds
Sunday	2/9	1:15pm	YOUTH: Escape City

## 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:** 1/26/2025:\$2054.00

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

We pray for: Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Lee Babirad, Denise Krueger, Susan Wilson, Lisa J, Donna, Carol A, Dee, Linda Dean, Andrea, Cindy, Henrietta Rutkowski, and the friends and family of Raymond Roth

## YOUTH

February 9  
1:15 - 4:00pm

ESCAPE CITY Buffalo "Over The Falls" – Location: 750 Young St., Tonawanda, NY. Event cost is covered in full by Lancaster Council and Youth account.

RSVP to Kelly S. at 716-868-3023 by 2/2/25. Kelly S. will provide pizza and water to drink. If transportation is needed, Kelly S. will provide rides departing from St. John's Lancaster at 12:15pm. Youth will return at 4:30pm. Parental waiver is required. Find and fill out waiver at <https://escapecitybuffalo.com/>

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St John's Women's Fellowship lunch will be on Feb 12th @ noon @ Olive Tree. Please sign up or call Bev by Feb 9th.

The next **Book Club** selection is THE AVIATOR'S WIFE by Melanie Benjamin. The club will meet for discussion on Thursday, Feb. 20th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!



**Altar Flower Dates Available:**

2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 - \$30 for two bouquets

**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!

**Ushers**

Linda Costa  
Janet Sincebaugh

**Deacon**

Paul  
Rudz

**Altar Guild**

Sharon Walker  
Carol Graham

**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!

**Confirmation Classes** February 9 & 23





# *St. John's Prayer Page*

*We pray with confidence for:*

Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse,  
Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay,  
Heather, Lee Babirad, Denise Krueger, Su-  
san Wilson, Lisa J, Donna, Carol A, Dee,  
Linda Dean, Andrea, Cindy, Henrietta  
Rutkowski, and the friends and family of  
Raymond Roth

*We pray especially for:*

your peace for those who are  
stressed and anxious.

*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)**

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[stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com](mailto: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

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Marjorie Kruger

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