

APRIL 2025

THE MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster PA 17603
www.stjohns-lancaster.org



Save the Date: Lenten Weekend April 4-5

Friday evening: 5:00 PM - simple supper, fellowship, introduction to our theme: cruciform spirituality, and compline

Saturday morning: 9:00 AM - in depth look at what it means to carry one's cross, followed by the Stations of the Cross, and lunch



NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Rector's Message
- Easter Flowers & Easter Brunch
- Holy Week
- Eucharistic Visitors Training
- Musings from the Organ Bench
- Financials
- Bishop's Visit!
- Mission Trip
- Global Partnership Challenge
- Birthdays & Anniversaries

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



Dear St. John's,

As a visual learner, I've always found Holy Week to be overwhelming. For seven days, I experience emotional overload as the images of Christ's last days are played out in worship and song. Our journey begins with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and shouts of Hosanna. The mood is ecstatic and contagious. But it doesn't last. Within days, I picture Jesus sitting around a table with his friends. With a command to love one another he shows them what that love looks like with an incredible act of humility. He stoops down and washes their tired, dirty, sore feet. I then envision the bread and wine he offers being passed around the table one disciple at a time. He begs of them to remember him through the sharing of a meal. He knows their memories will have to see them through.

Next, we encounter Jesus' struggle in the garden as he lays his heart out to his father. I see the crown of thorns piercing his forehead. I see Pontius Pilate trying to wash his hands of the task that is set before him. And then, as if we didn't know what was coming, the image of the cross looms over us casting the shadow of death as far as our eyes can see. It's dark, and tragic, and inconceivable to imagine our Messiah taking his last breath as he's mocked, tortured, and doubted by the very people he loves.

Although, all of these images are moving and deserve our attention, there is one that cuts me even deeper. It comes from a simple, yet profound saying, "Nails didn't hold Jesus to the cross, love did." Holy Week is the journey of a man in love with God's people and the sacrifices he was willing to make to show us that love. Love is what brought Jesus to Jerusalem and love is what delivered him from the power of death. The empty tomb, the greatest image of Christianity, is made possible because love always triumphs over evil. Light always casts out darkness. Life, with Christ, always defeats death. In the end, love always wins.

This month, I invite you to pay attention to the images of Holy Week. Take the necessary time to really reflect on Jesus' last days through worship, song, and prayer. Perhaps you'll see something you've never noticed before. Perhaps you'll encounter the empty tomb with fresh eyes and discover a world already in the midst of being resurrected.

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

EASTER FLOWERS



Easter Flowers

Please submit requests by April 13

GIVEN BY:

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

IN MEMORY OF:

Checks can be made out of to St. John's Church
with Easter flowers in the memo.

EASTER BRUNCH



As was the fellowship plan for 2024, a Brunch will be served between 9:30 and 11:00. This "rolling" event allows for participants and guests to attend either service, and for the children's egg hunt to happen. It can be considered as an elaborate coffee hour, welcoming folks from both services.

Donations of typical (homemade, if possible!) brunch items will be needed, and brought to the serving table, ready to share, at any time you plan to arrive. Please see Sue or Dave Martin to assist.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - April 13

8:00 AM - Liturgy of the Palms with Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:15 AM - Festive Palm Procession with Holy Eucharist and Choir

Holy Wednesday - April 16

12:00 PM - Healing Prayers with Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday - April 17

7:00 PM - Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

9:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Vigil

Good Friday - April 18

12:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM - The Passion, Prayers, and Holy Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament

Easter Morning - April 20

6:30 AM - Easter Sunrise Service at the Betty Finney AIDS Memorial Garden

8:30 AM - Festive Choral Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch

11:00 AM - Holy Baptism with Festive Choral Eucharist and Brass

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS NEEDED



**TRAINING AT
ST. JOHN'S ON
SATURDAY,
APRIL 26 FROM
9:00-11:00AM**

So, what is a Eucharistic Visitor? Eucharistic Visitors are lay persons who have discerned to take Holy Communion to those not able to attend Church services. Eucharistic Visitors receive training and are licensed by the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and St. John's. Visits are a time of prayer, sharing, and fellowship as well as distributing Communion. Persons who would like to participate in this special ministry should speak to the Rector and take the required "Safe Church" certification courses.

Training from the Diocese (Archdeacon, Jane Miron) for Eucharistic Visitor licensing will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00-11:00am at St John's. Register for this training by contacting the parish office: office@stjohns-lancaster.org

OUR CARING MINISTRY THANKS YOU!

To everyone who has volunteered to create/donate cards for our card ministry, those willing to lend a ride to folks unable to get to church, and to others who have offered to make phone calls & visits to check in on people, THANK YOU!

MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Those words are certainly familiar for those of us who celebrate with joy, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In looking through choral music to sing through the Easter season I worked through the master notebooks of choral music that's in our library. It was there that I discovered an anthem that, when it was new, cost \$0.16. Yes, that's been quite a while! When I looked at the anthem, by Russian composer, Andre Kopolyoff, the words were rather unique and different for Easter Sunday. It's an Easter anthem that is from the Orthodox Church such as found in Ukraine and Russia and it has some unique vocal techniques which were humorous to say the least, when we sang through it at a recent choir rehearsal.

This year for Easter Sunday two special choral things will take place within the late worship service. One will be this orthodox anthem celebrating the coming of spring, the planting of crops, and the coming again of the risen Christ. The reason for doing this is because the orthodox celebration of Easter falls on the same day as the western Christian community's celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 20th. A most rare occurrence. We're going to sing this anthem as a way of highlighting and drawing attention in a musical way to the need for ongoing prayers for the people in Ukraine who continue to suffer through a war that has killed thousands and displaced thousands and has been so devastating not just to Ukraine but to the thousands of young Russian soldiers and their families, who have died in battle.

There will be celebrations of Easter in eastern European countries at the same time that we celebrate Easter in the West. The prayer is that we would think as one, as our Book of Common Prayer reminds us. Our worship unifies and connects us.

The second thing that we will be doing in worship at the late service is joining our voices together for the 'Hallelujah Chorus' by George Frederick Handel. If you've never sung the chorus and would like to join, that's great; if you've sung it and it's been a long time since you sang in the choir, you're welcome, too; anyone interested is invited to come up and sing the Hallelujah chorus with us. Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Bravura Brass will assist in the service and the sounds of the glorious Easter music will resound with organ, voices and brass to remind us again.... "The Lord is Risen Indeed"!



FINANCIALS BY CHARLES WEAR, TREASURER

Operating income rebounded in February and expenses met budget. The result was a \$9.7k surplus for the month and \$32.8k year to date. Overall, it was a very routine month. There were no major transactions in our non-operating accounts. The change in investment account balances primarily reflects market movement.

Capital gifts of \$14.1k were received in February, bringing the total for the project to \$744.1k. Bequests and pre-campaign donations bring the grand total received to \$859.0k. An additional \$248.2k in pledges is outstanding. Overall, we remain about \$95k short of the campaign goal.

The Willet proposal of \$84.3K to refurbish all the windows in the sanctuary has been added to the project estimate. This brings the total project estimated cost to \$1.24 million. The only major capital expense in February was the monthly \$5.7k debt service for the Heistand loan, which has a current balance of \$172.9k.



St. John's Episcopal Church Church Operating Income Statement

February 2025

Cash Basis in \$000's

	February		Year to Date		Annual
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income					
Contributions	\$51.5	\$42.1	\$116.6	\$84.2	\$505.1
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$6.1	\$0.0	\$12.3	\$73.6
Other Income	\$5.2	\$2.9	\$7.9	\$5.7	\$34.4
Jubilee	\$4.0	\$3.0	\$20.7	\$6.0	\$36.1
Transferred Income	\$0.0	(\$3.3)	\$0.0	(\$6.7)	(\$40.0)
Total Income	\$60.8	\$50.8	\$145.1	\$101.5	\$609.2
Expenses					
Clergy	\$22.6	\$23.1	\$48.8	\$46.2	\$277.5
Lay Staff	\$10.0	\$9.4	\$20.3	\$18.7	\$112.4
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$2.1	\$2.5	\$5.8	\$5.0	\$30.3
Utilities	\$1.8	\$3.3	\$7.4	\$6.5	\$39.0
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$3.2	\$3.0	\$4.9	\$6.0	\$36.1
Other Property	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$36.6
Worship/Ed/Community	\$2.0	\$1.9	\$3.7	\$3.7	\$22.2
Outreach	\$5.6	\$5.3	\$11.0	\$10.7	\$64.2
Jubilee	\$0.8	\$3.1	\$4.2	\$6.2	\$37.1
Transferred Expenses	\$0.0	(\$3.9)	\$0.0	(\$7.7)	(\$46.3)
Total Expenses	\$51.1	\$50.8	\$112.3	\$101.5	\$609.2

BISHOP'S VISIT - SUNDAY, MAY 4



CONFIRMATION RECEPTION REAFFIRMATION

With the Bishop's visit officially on the books (May 4), it is time to begin our preparations for her visit! One of the roles of our bishop is the Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of members of the parish.

Youth and adults are regularly confirmed, making this choice for themselves to affirm their baptismal vows. For those who may have been confirmed in another denomination (Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Moravian, etc.) the Prayer Book provides for Reception, whereby one is formally received into The Episcopal Church, honoring the commitment one made in their previous denomination.

The rite of Reaffirmation is celebrated with a confirmed Episcopalian who, for personal reasons, wishes to publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows to the bishop and the community. In both reception and reaffirmation, we pray that the Holy Spirit continues to transform and deepen the candidates' faith.

If you are interested in participating in these Sacramental Rites please email amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org.

SUMMER 2025 MISSION TRIP - JULY 13-19



For the last 4 years, a group of Missioners from Lancaster County Episcopal Churches and beyond have gone to Pennsylvania's Northern Tier to work with Potter County Habitat for Humanity to help those in need refurbish their houses. The dates this year are July 13-19, 2025. (you can spend the entire week or as many days as you can) You are invited to attend the next planning meeting on Sunday, May 18 @ 12Noon in the St James Parish House. (119 N. Duke Street, Lancaster)

The group will be staying at the Brookland Retreat Center <https://www.brooklandcenter.org/> and driving daily to the work sites. All levels of work experience are needed. To learn more about this opportunity, contact St John's parishioners, Br David drutledge1225@gmail.com or Don Durand jampdurand@gmail.com

Visit the Sign Up Genius link for more information and to sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BA5AF2CAAFC1-55614031-2025#/>



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

GPC Challenge for April 6th

April 7th World Health Day

"Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are give us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people." Mr. Rogers

Share whatever you can with the Food Pantry whose goal is to provide health and caring to those in need in our community, our family.

GPC Challenge for April 13th

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." St. Augustine

There was never a more important time to remember we are all siblings from the same Creator who loves us all and celebrates our differences and "family" is called to care for "family". The smallest gift can be huge.

GPC Challenge for April 20th

Easter Sunday

Give thanks and feel the love given to ALL from our Father.

GPC Challenge for April 27th

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then they become your partner." Nelson Mandela

Notice the Spring bulbs as they appear and give you a smile and share that positive vibe with ALL whom you encounter.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emma Bramble
- 1 April Way
- 2 John Faust
- 3 Maria Sauder
- 5 Magda Stump-Kennedy
- 7 Kevin Henry
- 11 Thuan Pham
- 12 Michael Stank
- 13 Angela Cuthbert
- 14 Janice Henry
- 14 Glenn Miller
- 15 Ron Barton
- 17 Sandra Grove
- 18 Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
- 19 Rose Wenger
- 20 Sue Dodge
- 22 Heidi Leitzke
- 23 Gwynneth Mann
- 26 Leslie Tahsler
- 27 Ty Humphrey
- 27 Dan Siewert
- 27 Claire Thompson
- 29 Maggie Lee

ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Joe & April Way
- 22 Mary Ellen & Bob Kilp
- 24 Bob & Maggie Springer
- 30 Mike & Phyllis Gbur

OUR FRIENDS AT HOME

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Kelly, Brooks Morgan, Brian Hobbins, Joshua Watkins, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, David Wolfe

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Marshall, Sandy Patrone, Carol Stigelman, Denise Chandler, Kim



Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1:00pm EM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:00pm NA 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:30pm Martha's Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Executive Committee 5:00pm Immigration Clinic 6:00pm AA (AP)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Program - Episcopal 101 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Worship Committee 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA 5:00pm Lenten Event</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Lenten Event 1:00pm AA 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Birthdays & Anniversaries Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1:00pm EM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Sanctuary Spring Clean Up 12:00pm NA 4:30pm Trans Loving Community 6:00pm Ministries Council 7:00pm SLAA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30pm Martha's Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 4:00pm Finance Committee 5:00pm Immigration Clinic 6:00pm AA (AP)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Program - Episcopal 101 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Morning Prayer 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30pm Citizen's Climate Lobby Group 1:00pm AA 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Coffee hour after each service Palm Sunday! 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1:00pm EM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00pm NA 4:00pm Caring Ministry Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:30pm Martha's Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 4:00pm Community Meal at First Reformed (ALERT) 5:00pm Immigration Clinic 6:00pm AA (AP)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Morning Prayer 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 12:00pm Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12:00pm NA 7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Community Breakfast (First Reformed) 1:00pm AA 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter Service with Renewal of Baptismal Vows 9:30am Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt 11:00pm Easter Service with Holy Baptism & Brass</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Office Closed 12:00pm NA 7:00pm SLAA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30pm Martha's Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Immigration Clinic 6:00pm AA (AP)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Morning Prayer 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MESSENGER DUE Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00pm AA 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1:00pm EM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00pm NA 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:30pm Martha's Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Immigration Clinic 6:00pm AA (AP)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Worship Committee 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm AA 6:00pm AA</p>