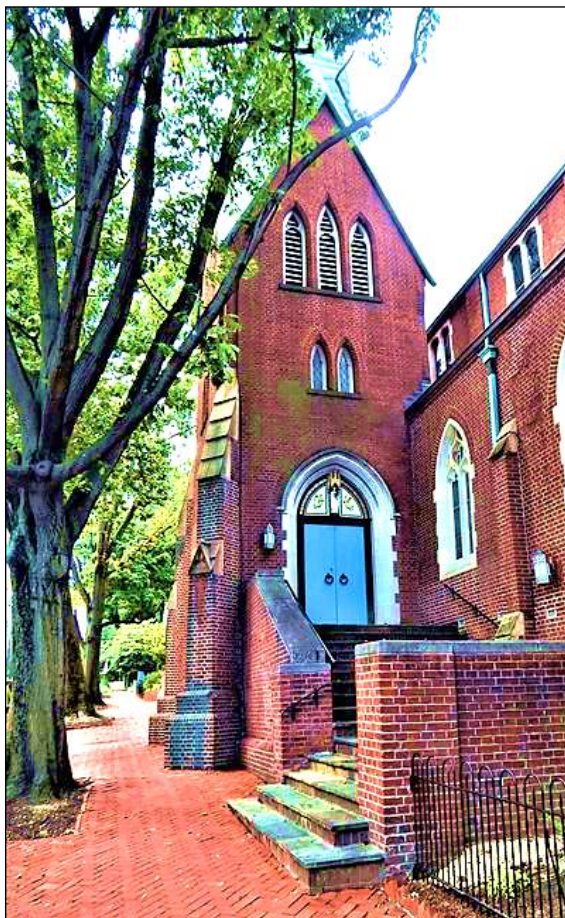


# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
AUGUST 10, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.

---

## **WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

## **TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING**

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the restrooms. Thank you for being here!

## **A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP**

During the summer months, we worship as one congregation with a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

---

## THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,  
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know by noon on Wednesday.*

**PRELUDE** *Arise, My Soul! Arise* “Chodan” arr. by Dan Forrest  
(solo)

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *How Firm a Foundation* **HYMNAL 637**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION** *(please remain standing as you are able)*

*Officiant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY** **BCP 355**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**GLORIA** *Glory to God* **HYMNAL S-278**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 1:1,10-20 *(please be seated for the readings)*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD,  
    you rulers of Sodom!  
Listen to the teaching of our God,  
    you people of Gomorrah!  
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
    says the LORD;  
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams  
    and the fat of fed beasts;  
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
    or of lambs, or of goats.  
When you come to appear before me,  
    who asked this from your hand?  
    Trample my courts no more;  
bringing offerings is futile;  
    incense is an abomination to me.  
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation--  
    I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.  
Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
    my soul hates;  
they have become a burden to me,  
    I am weary of bearing them.  
When you stretch out your hands,  
    I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers,  
    I will not listen;  
    your hands are full of blood.  
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
    remove the evil of your doings  
    from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
    learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
    rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
    plead for the widow.  
Come now, let us argue it out,  
    says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
    they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.  
If you are willing and obedient,  
you shall eat the good of the land;  
but if you refuse and rebel,  
you shall be devoured by the sword;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

*People*                      The Word of the Lord.  
                                    *Thanks be to God.*

### **PSALM 50:1-8,23-24**

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:  
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*  
for I am God, your God.
- 8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*  
your offerings are always before me.
- 23 Consider this well, you who forget God, \*  
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.
- 24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; \*  
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

## THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**GRADUAL HYMN** *How Wonderful and Great Thy Works, God of Praise* **HYMNAL 533**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 12:32-40 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*People*                      The Gospel of the Lord.  
                                    *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**SERMON**

The Rt. Rev. Robert Gepert

**THE NICENE CREED** *(please rise in body or spirit)*

**BCP 358**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man. *(pause)*  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son  
he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form IV**

**BCP 388**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Paul's, Columbia, The Anglican Church of Rwanda; and Grace Church, Allentown, our "sibling parish". God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons. Especially remembering Amanda, our Rector, during her time of sabbatical. God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald, our president; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces. God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially our friends at home; we pray for Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, and Peggy Buscher and Teresa Sullivan. Grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew and Sandra Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Denise Chandler, Shirley Parmer, Erin Heintzinger, Phyllis Shearer, Ellen Keller, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Bonnie, Heidi, Danny, Kenneth, Sarah Gordon, Leslie Tahsler, Shannon and family, Lainey Jane and family, Sergei, Eamon Nelson, Pastor Russell, Jeanne, Paul Hershey and John Kerner, Sr.; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

God of love and mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE CONFESSION

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

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

<b>THE OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Thy Word</i> (solo)	Michael W. Smith/Amy Grant
----------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.  
**AMEN.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

*The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!*

COMMUNION MUSIC      *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*      arr. Richard Walter  
(solo)

## SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

*Celebrant* In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.  
*People* We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*O God of Bethel, By Whose Hand*

**HYMNAL 709**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
*People*        Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur in D*

Jean-Jacques Beuvarlet Charpentier

+++++

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE BRAVING THIN PLACES BOOK STUDY** will continue following the 9:00 a.m. service and after Lemonade Time. Deacon Joe will be leading the book study. There are some books for sale in the Office if you need one.

**MANY THANKS** to Ben Webber for sharing his musical gifts with us this morning!

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PICNIC** will take place August 24<sup>th</sup> and 11:00 a.m. See insert for details!

**THE ROBERT FULTON SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** has started. See the insert for details!

**FOYER GROUPS** are coming! See insert for details!

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** – November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please start thinking about how you can help make or donate to this year's Bazaar. Please contact Amy Dissinger or Deb Smith with your intentions. Thank you!

**THE HATS-ON-THE-FENCE MINISTRY** will begin collecting new and used hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks. Look for the basket in the Atrium to drop off your donation. We will begin to hang items on the fence on Chestnut Street when the weather cools.

### **St. John's Traveler Letter:**

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe, and Bishop Bob:

Greetings this week from high up in the Virunga Mountains. I'm in Rwanda's Volcano National Park, with peaks upward of 15,000 feet. Diane Fosse studied endangered mountain gorillas here and, even though this is just south of the equator in Central Africa, she described the land as "so high up you shiver more than you sweat." In addition to gorillas and other primates, this area is rich in evergreen and bamboo forests, and open grasslands. It's rich in biodiversity.

As a country Rwanda is a study in conflict and recovery. You may remember the movie "Hotel Rwanda" that told the story of Paul Rusesabagina during the ethnic genocide of the mid 1990's. More than a million people died as Hutu and Tutsi neighbors attacked and killed each other. Paul provided safe shelter from violence to over 1,200 people of both tribes. And in the years following, the country, with help from the churches, conducted a wonderfully healing reconciliation program that brought people abused and their abusers together to acknowledge their differences and find what they have in common. Their reconciliation is helping Rwanda to rise from the ashes of its past.

The history of the Anglican Church of Rwanda also reflects the conflict of the country. It was founded by missionaries during a time of colonization and given the name The Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda. In 2019 the leaders and people changed their name to remove "The Province," saying it implied being subjects of Canterbury and they seek to only be a colony of Heaven. In doing so they recognize the conflicts of their past and look to a future on common ground.

I'm about to travel down to the capital, Kigali, to see the preparations being made to host the world road cycling championships in September. The Team Rwanda bicycling team was started in 2007 to provide coaching and training resources to cyclists here, and now the country is hosting the very best cyclists in the world! The program has grown and one of its most successful athletes, Adrien Niyonshuti's story was told in another movie, "Rising from Ashes." It's definitely a good watch, and an apropos allegory for this country, its people, and our church family here, trying its best to rise from the ashes of its past.

Blessings to you, from this land of hope and promise.

-- John Traveler.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:**

### **TODAY**

*Lemonade Time to follow Worship*

9:00 AM      Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
Adult Forum Book Study

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 11**

4:00 PM      Caring Ministry Meeting

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 12**

1:30 PM      Martha's Ministry  
2:30 PM      Food Pantry  
4:00 PM      Finance Committee  
5:00 PM      Immigration Clinic

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**

12:00 PM      HEII with Healing  
4:00 PM      Money Essentials Class

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**

9:00 AM      Morning Prayer  
2:30 PM      Food Pantry

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**

9:00 AM      Community Breakfast  
First Reformed

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

*Lemonade Time to follow Worship*

9:00 AM      Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
Adult Forum Book Study  
NOON        Vestry Meeting

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

## **OUR MINISTERS**

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector  
[amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org)

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector  
[Joe@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:Joe@stjohns-lancaster.org)

## **VESTRY**

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Ted Loose (*Jr. Warden*),  
Molly Moyer (*Secretary*), Liz West, Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden,  
Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones

## **DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Pam Loose, Br. David Rutledge, Joe Way, Drew Dorgan

## **STAFF**

Mark Herr, Minister of Music ([music@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:music@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper ([finance@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:finance@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
John Knouse, Property Manager ([property@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:property@stjohns-lancaster.org))  
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian  
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**  
**[WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG) / 717.299.1188**