
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

218 N. Jefferson St. Kittanning, PA 16201-1324

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January 2024

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



**GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."**

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

"An Anatomy of All the Parts of the Soul."

I have been accustomed to call [the Psalms], I think not inappropriately, "An Anatomy of All the Parts of the Soul"; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which [our minds] are wont to be agitated."

—John Calvin

The Psalms are both the song book and prayer book of the church. We pray as we sing. John Calvin rightly notes that there isn't an emotion lacking in the Psalms—the best of emotions and even the worst of the emotions!

Worship is the same. We gather as the people of God each filled with emotions. The best and the worst of our emotions are comprised within the body of Christ as we gather to come before the Lord. Some are happy, some are sad, some are angry, the list goes on and on. Every Sunday; all human emotions are present.

We bring these emotions with us into worship to lay before the Lord. There is no emotion found in the Psalms that we cannot or should not lay down before our God.

For years I have heard from some who were grieving that they were too embarrassed to come to church because of their tears. Crying belongs in worship.

The powerful thing about crying is the promise found in the book of Revelation: "and He will wipe every tear from our eye." Our God of Comfort loves you that much!

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson

Five Elected at the December Congregational Meeting

Four members were elected for a three-year term and one member was elected to a two-year term to Congregational Council at the December Congregational Meeting. They are:

Three Year Terms:

Patricia Kirkpatrick

Brendan Swanson

Susan Neal

Jill Wranich

Two Year Term:

Megan Rupp

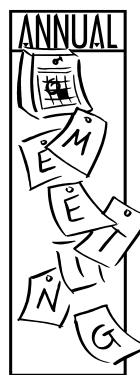
We also thank our outgoing members of St. John's Congregational Council for their service to:

Tammy Fleeger

Brett Taylor

Karen Waugaman

At the December Congregational Meeting the Congregation also voted to designate the 2022 New Church Building Fund interest (\$4,496.40) for the Capital Campaign.



Annual Congregational Meeting

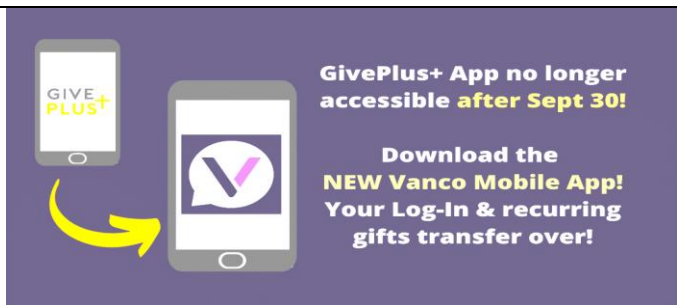
Scheduled for

January 28th, 2024

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 28th. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2024 and elect an endowment trustee.

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Vanco Electronic Giving APP

You can make a contribution to St. John's through a mobile app!

To get started, download "Vanco Mobile" for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "Vanco Mobile" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history.

We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry and thank you for your support!

1. Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone.
2. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church.
3. Do NOT use a PERIOD after St, or comma in Johns to search.
4. Select St Johns Lutheran Church 218 North Jefferson St Kittanning, Pa.
5. Your information should be automatically transferred if you have an account with Give Plus already.
6. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
7. Log in or donate as a guest.
8. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

For those already using Give Plus, the app will no longer be available after January 2022.

Mark Your Calendars	
January 28	Congregational Meeting
February 14	Ash Wednesday
February 25	Habitat for Humanity Luncheon
March 31	Easter
May 5	Spring Concert
May 19	Pentecost Sunday

*Real Christmas joy
is knowing Jesus*



- The December Council meeting had to be canceled because of a lack of a quorum.

A complete copy of the approved minutes from each month is posted on bulletin boards in the Narthex and Education Building.

Your Church Council members are always available for your questions and concerns:

Kyle Kirkpatrick - Vice President	724-954-7366
Dean Crooks	724-664-2015
Tammy Fleeger	724-297-5889
Wendy Hodak	724-664-4345
Gene Hughes	724-543-3011
John Swanson	724-525-1381
Brett Taylor	724-525-0850
Richard Thorell	724-349-5287
Kraig Walker	724-664-3085
Karen Waugaman	724-543-9043



Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

**Children and Youth
December 2023**

**Change of plans...
We will be watching The Star,
Animated Christmas Movie
Dec. 31st & Jan. 7th, during Sunday
School,
As we celebrate the 12 days of
Christmas!**

**St. John's
Family Skate at
the Belmont,
Sunday Jan. 28th
During Public
Skate 2:30-4pm
Cost: \$6 to
skate, \$2 for
skate rental**



**Sunday Dec. 24th: NO YOUTH GROUP
Merry Christmas Eve!**

**Wednesday Dec. 27th: Youth Group Caroling!
5-7:30pm, with Cookies and games after!**

**Sunday Dec. 31st: NO YOUTH GROUP
Happy New Year!**

**Sunday Jan. 7th: Youth Group
6:30-8:00pm* NEW YEAR GAMES* Tacos**

Sunday Jan. 14th: Youth Group

½ Lock In! 7pm-11pm

No School the 15th

**Rides Home Provided for kids,
for parents who have to work on the 15th**

Friday Jan. 19th: WINTER JAM!

Cost: \$15 at the Door!

All ages event! See below for details

Sunday Jan. 21: NO YOUTH GROUP

**Sunday Jan. 28th: Youth Group after worship
Soup and Service Project
12-1:15pm**

**Sunday Feb. 4th: Youth Fat Sunday Breakfast
Casserole Bakeoff!
Details TBA**

**QUAKE Youth Winter
Retreat! Feb. 9-11
Not too late to register!**





January

- 1 Ed Leard, Joe Campbell, Alan Mitchell
- 3 Carole Cable, Alice Stitt, Julie Stitt
- 4 Susan Deakin
Carroll Klingensmith
- 6 Becki Baillie, Ashleigh Choncek
- 7 Kim Lasher
- 10 Kevin Krauser
- 11 Debbie Zimmerman
- 12 Clint Erdley
- 13 Sue Beranty
- 15 Corey Chasse
- 16 Don Gariglio, Wyatt Lager
- 17 Sally Guz, Jon Pierce, Matthew Smith, Evan Sharrer
- 18 Edward Walker, Charlesetta Bleakney, Darci Harriger, Brenda Long, Matthew Bowser
- 19 David Bleakney, Justin Long, Colton Gariglio
- 21 Pam Wingard, Amanda Recupero
- 22 Melinda Michaels, Colin Kirkpatrick
- 23 Judy Recupero, Todd Mechling
- 24 Brian Kozlosky, Tyler Heller, Jonathan Pierce Jr., Zachary Wolff, Robert John, Derek Koeller
- 26 Janet Bowser, Wendy Choncek, Abigail Kirby
- 28 Leah Bish, Rebecca Swanson, Ella Graff
- 29 Kendall Ignatz
- 30 Michael Elder, Dennis Blaney, Jennifer Baker
- 31 Katherine Kiger, Zachary Steiner

If your birthday does not appear and you would like it to, please contact the church office



We have a Texting App!

Mojo texting was created FOR churches! It is safe and doesn't sell your number to anyone else!

If you would like to receive schedule changes, updates, reminders and announcements from St. John's, please text the word **GRACE** to 7242765321. It will send you a welcome message.

You will now receive important messages via text about what's going on at St. John's! Messages will only be sent out on occasion and when important changes need to be communicated.

Thank you so much!

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Smith.



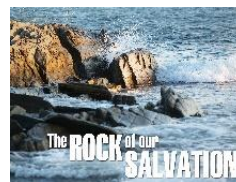
Our November Church Offerings

Offerings	Nov. Receipts	Nov. Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current				
Operating	16,186	26,207	212,220	288,278
Benevolence	1,382	3,333	17,950	36,667
Capital Campaign	7,060	1,937	47,699	21,306
Current Account	Income	Expenses		Gain/-Loss
Current Month	16,186	23,682		-7,496
Year to Date	212,220	272,282		-60,062

ATTENDANCE

Our November Worship Attendance

November	2022	2023
1 st Sunday in Nov	134	63(E) 70(L)
2 nd Sunday in Nov	49(E) *(L)	102
3 rd Sunday in Nov	34(E) 87(L)	62(E) 69(L)
4 th Sunday in Nov	79	94(L)
Average for Nov.	111	115



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday, January 14 and 21

Due to so many other Christmas activities going on, we are only able to do one Sunday, this December. We will be back to 2 Sundays a month in January.



Women's Bible Study

will return at the King's restaurant on **Thursday, December 7th at noon.** Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



Thank You's for December 2023:

- ♥ To Carol Runinger, Rose Montgomery, Mary Jane Dawson, Janice Smith, Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty and Alan Mitchell, Linda Charley, and Julie Smith for helping with the November newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to the praise band for helping lead early worship service December 31st.
- ♥ Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for your dedication and love for the children of St. John's!
- ♥ Thank you to all the kids who so beautifully told the story of Jesus' birth at our Christmas pageant, Baylee Kozlowski, Quinten Bailey, Kherington Hilty, Eliana Crooks, Parker Heller, Carter Rupp, Oliver Crooks, Finn Heller, Brody Hodak, Kendall Bailey, Colvin Adkins, Ava Rupp, Gracie Hodak, Callie Adkins, Noelle Smoyer, Delaney Smith, Elizabeth Smoyer and Anna Venesky!! You ALL did a FANTASTIC Job!
- ♥ To our AMAZING team of adult Volunteers for the pageant! I couldn't have done it without you!... Jessica Bailey, Megan Rupp, Donna Livengood, & Wendy Hodak! Thank you to Megan for the Breakfast treats for dress rehearsal and Donna and Jessica for the awesome props and Andrea Ehrman for the adorable angel costumes! And Ava Rupp for bringing Baby Jesus!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who brought cookies for the reception! And thank you to all who helped clean up sound and stage equipment after the pageant.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth ministries at St. John's!!
- ♥ Thank you to our wonderful church family for the beautiful flower arrangement, for my grandmother's funeral. It meant so much to my family and I! As well as your thoughts and prayers! *Julie Smith
- ♥ Thank you to Kittanning Hose #6 for having our Children's Hour Class out for a visit on Dec. 6th.
- ♥ Thank you to Kay Thorell for playing the piano and organ for Christmas Eve 7pm Service!
- ♥ Thank you to the praise band for your hard work and commitment to help lead songs for early worship service!
- ♥ Thank you to Rick John for leading our Youth Group Bible Study.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks for fixing up our Pageant structure!
- ♥ Thank you to Connie McMaster, RuthAnn Hankey, Betty Mitchell, Rose Montgomery, Cheryl Mechling and Tammy Fleeger for your help covering the office, while we are without a secretary!

- ♥ To Men's Breakfast Cooking Crew: Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Clair Roudebush, and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helps with the Fellowship Hours after worship!



ANNUAL REPORTS

All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers, **please submit your reports to the church office by January 8th.** Our goal is to have the reports ready **2 weeks** prior to the Annual meeting January 28th. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it! If possible, please e-mail your report to:

stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

Pastor's Sunday School Class:

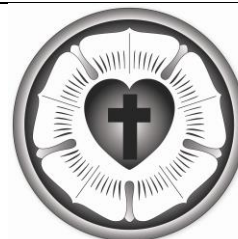
Adult Sunday School

Pastor Johnson's class will be studying the book Limping with God, by Chad Bird.

"Jacob seems to be anything but a model disciple. He's a trickster, liar, and selfishly ambitious man who fathers children with four women and leads a dysfunctional family rife with jealousy and backstabbing. But Jacob is also Israel, the namesake of the Old Testament community of God, chosen and blessed. As such, this sinner-saint, who limps along with the Lord, burdened by weakness and beset by problems, is the mirror image of all of us who follow Jesus. In his life we see our lives, our struggles, our failures, and most especially the God who loves us and chooses us as his own. As we explore his bio, from his wrangling in the womb with Esau to his death as an old man in Egypt, we will learn more about ourselves and the God who is with us and for us in Jesus the Messiah."

Heading into the hospital?

If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please contact the office @ 724-548-2051. Because of confidentiality issues, the hospitals are not as helpful in notifying us as they once were.



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



EPIPHANY...

...means to "make manifest" which means "to show." The wise men coming from afar was the first epiphany to the world. The season of Epiphany is one centered on evangelism: making Christ known throughout the world. Since the day of Pentecost this has been our task and job #1.



A time of fellowship will be provided each Sunday after worship in the Gathering Space. Please plan to stay after worship to meet and greet fellow members and visitors of St. John's. If you would like to help host a fellowship hour, please see Pastor Johnson.



Katie's Cupboard

Harvest Home donations were at an all-time high! Thanks so much for your outpouring of love~

As winter is in full swing, please remember Katie's after the holiday season. The need for a warm meal and necessities does not change. **HOWEVER**, you are impacting lives in the greatest of ways as Jesus commanded, "love your neighbor".

If you would care to volunteer, have great ideas for further this ministry, or can offer suggestions, please contact any member of council or Tammy Fleeger 724-664-1773.

Our source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury,
campus minister in New York City

December Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 13th at 8:00 a.m.



The men of St. John's will be meeting Saturday morning for breakfast and study. Following the meal will be a brief program concluding by 9:00 a.m.

January

January 7

Assisting Minister Nancy Pierce
 Lector Rose Montgomery
 Communion Julie Smith, Karen Waugaman
 Lance and Christine Whiteman
 Acolytes Stella Venesky, Emily Bouch,
 Anne Venesky, William Bouch
 Welcome Team Whtieman Family
 Camera Operators Bill Bouch

January 14

Assisting Ministers Rebecca Swanson (E)
 Cheryl Mechling (L)
 Lectors Jerah Wranich (E)
 Deborah Bouch (L)
 Communion Assistants Nick Wranich ,Amber Zurn (E)
 Welcome Team Smoyer Family (E)
 Jazwinskis (L)
 Acolytes Mitchell Wranich (E)
 Kendall Bailey (L)
 Camera Operator Robert John (E)
 Keith Livengood (L)

January 21

Assisting Ministers Robert John (E)
 Gene Hughes (L)
 Lectors Julie Smith (E)
 Richard Thorell (L)
 Comm Assistants Kyle and Patty Kirkpatrick (E),
 Tabitha Bowser, Sue Neal,
 Deborah and Mollie Bouch (L)
 Acolytes Brody Hodak (E)
 Lucas and Camryn Bowser,
 Quinn Kellner and Callie Adkins (L)
 Welcome team Donna Livengood (E)
 Young Family (L)
 Camera Operator Nick Wranich(E)
 Keith Livengood (L)

January 28

Assisting Minister Keith Livengood
 Lector Colvin Adkins
 Acolyte Ella Fennell
 Welcome team Deb and Jack Griffin
 Camera Operator Robert John

January

Altar Guild: Connie McMaster, Debbie Griffin

Money Counters: Kraig Walker, John Swanson, Susan Neal

Ushers: Ed Walker, Kraig Walker, Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson

Children's Hour:

Children's Hour is every Wednesday or Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	TBA
Sexton	Colin Toy
Director of Music/Organist	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“I do not at all understand the mystery of God's grace — only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.”

—Anne Lamott



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> January St. John's Lutheran Church 2024 </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 First Sunday after Christmas <small>White</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 7:00 Property	3 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	4 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	5	6 9:00 Finance Committee
7 Baptism of our Lord <small>White</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 6:30 Youth Group	8 7:00 Council	9	10 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	11 9:30 Children's Hour 12:00 Womens Study at Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	12	13 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast
14 Second Sunday after Epiphany <small>Green</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 7:00-11:00pm Youth Group	15	16	17 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	18 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	19 6:00pm Winter Jam	20
21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany <small>Green</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	22 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	23 1:00 Newsletter mailing	24 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	25 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany <small>Green</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Youth Group 2:30 Family Ice Skating	29	30	31 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir			