
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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August 2023

**"DID NOT THE MESSIAH
HAVE TO SUFFER THESE
THINGS AND THEN
ENTER HIS GLORY?"**

LUKE 24:26, NIV

Everything About the Gospel is Offensive

During an Adult Catechism Class we discussed how offensive the whole idea of eating someone's flesh and drinking someone's blood is. This was especially true of Jews in Jesus' day. Kosher butchering to this day meticulously drains the blood from an animal because the blood belongs to God. It is not for human consumption. It makes for weak gravy. And Jesus tells us to eat His flesh and drink His blood. Yuck!

The incarnation is offensive. No self-respecting god would put aside its "godness" and become human.

The birth of our God is offensive. What god would spend 9 months in utero and submit to being passed through a birth canal and begin life totally helpless. Gods do not act that way. Pretend to be human from time to time, maybe; but not for real!

Jesus' teachings are offensive. The sermon on the Mount has nothing to do with being successful. Turn the other cheek? Really?

The sacrament of baptism is equally offensive. What God in their right mind would use water to cleanse us from our sin? This should be my action, not God's.

The crucifixion is offensive. No God would ever die for mere humans. Humans are supposed to serve God, not the other way around. Everyone knows the very definition of a god includes not dying—let alone to pay for our sin! Why does God love me so much?

The resurrection of the body is offensive. Somehow we want to out-spiritualize God. Resting in Peace while we wait for Christ to come again—I want it now!

*You are God's priceless possession!
Relax and enjoy your salvation.*

See you in Worship,
Pastor Johnson



Church Picnic

Sunday, August 20, 2023

4:00 p.m. – ??? p.m.

Eat at 5:00

The Fleeger Meadow

253 Pump Station Road, Worthington, PA

4.4 miles from Main St. Worthington

Drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

Please bring your own tableware
and a covered dish or dessert to share.

Bring clothes to play in the creek!

Activities for all ages!

Evening ends with a bonfire.

Hope to see you there!!!!

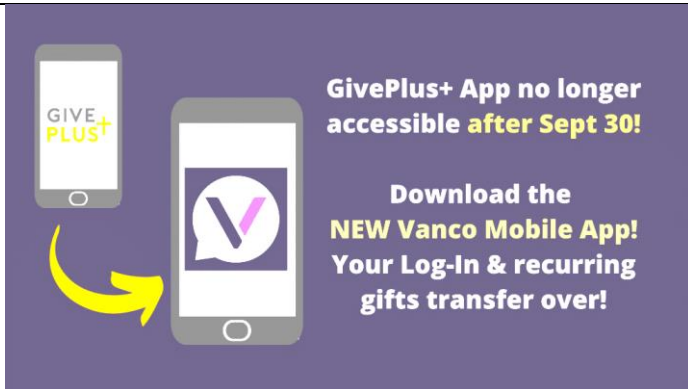
Issue an invitation!

*When I enter that beautiful city
And the saints all around me appear,
I hope that someone will tell me:
It was you who invited me here.*

—Carrie K. Butcher

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**Electronic Giving APP has Changed!
Company is the same.**

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.

**"Give according to your income,
lest God make your income
according to your giving."**

Mark Your Calendars

August 9-11	NALC Convention in Oklahoma
August 20	Church Picnic @ Fleeger Meadow
September 10	Rally Day
September 10	Youth Group Kick-off
October 29	Reformation Sunday
December 3	First Sunday of Advent
December 3	Christmas Concert



➤ The July meeting was canceled. The next scheduled regular meeting of Council is August 14th.

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:

Dean Crooks	724-664-2015
Tammy Fleeger	724-297-5889
Wendy Hodak	724-664-4345
Gene Hughes	724-543-3011
Kyle Kirkpatrick	724-954-7366
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

NEXUS Report

Robert John, Mollie and Emily Bouch attended the NEXUS institute at Grandview University to explore their call to becoming pastors. They got to experience staying in college dorms, morning and evening prayer, Old Testament classes on Jeremiah and New Testament classes on Paul's letters. They frolicked, went to Adventureland amusement park, explored Des Moines, and sampled local cuisine.

Faith was deepened, friends were made, callings were affirmed, Ninja t-shirt folding skills were gained. All in all it was quite an adventure. Thanks to Bill Bouch for helping to drive and chaperone!

*Lutherans are the Jesiest
people I know!*

*Jesus bought you for a steep price
and His name is on the deed.*

Children and Youth August 2023



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Parking Lot Helpers Needed

During Folk Festival
August 3rd-6th
Please see Julie

If you are able to fill a time slot.
Donations collected go to a non-profit
organization and to the Youth Group.

We had an AWESOME 2 weeks at In-Tents Camps! Youth Camp; 31 Youth, Kids Camp; 17 kids! We enjoyed the Quemahoning Swim area, Visited the Flight 93 Memorial and Packaged Flood Buckets for NALC Disaster Relief! Tanner Olsen was our Speaker. We had a memorable, fantastic week! Thank you to all of our Church Family for your continued support!



Mark Your Calendars for September

Sunday Sept. 10th Rally Day 9:45am
Meet your teachers, Open House,
Breakfast treats

Sunday, Sept. 10th Youth Group
Kickoff! 6:30-8
Grades 6-12

Sunday Sept. 17th Sunday School
Classes Begin
9:45-10:40am,
every Sunday during the school year!

Sunday Sept. 17th Youth Group
Outing TBA

Saturday Sept. 23rd Riverfront Park
Christock
12-4pm, Free Food and Free Kids
Stuff!



- 2 Joseph Acerni, Gage Duncan
 3 Teresa Zydonik Randy Sedwick
 Pastor Bish
 4 Tom Simmons
 5 Katie Acerni
 6 Jon Livingston
 8 Joe Campbell, Amanda Snyder
 9 Stephen Livengood
 10 Emily Graff, Ava Dosch
 11 Mark Dongilli
 12 Kathy Hooks
 13 Rose Debnar, Corbin Bowser, Kylea Zimmerman,
 Ava Rupp
 14 Gary Zurn
 15 Bob Helm
 16 Gene Hughes
 17 Olivia Whiteman
 19 Christine Whiteman, Julius Kuruc, Addison Round
 21 Jessica Simmons, Emily Rodgers, Andi Dosch
 22 Judy Kozlosky, Dennis Kirkpatrick,
 Sarah Spatafore
 23 Harvey Wingard, Betty Mitchell
 25 Tracy Trulick, Mitchell Ignatz
 26 Seth Bowser, Leroy Zacherl
 27 Shirley Stitt
 28 Ashlynn Zurn, Brenna Zurn, Christian Peralta
 29 Joan George, Donovan Crawford, Parker Crawford
 30 Hadley Heller
 31 Todd Stitt



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We welcome into the Church through
the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Cinnie Louise Shamberger



**To the Family of
Jennifer Eve Kohl**

*Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon her.*



Our July Church Offerings

Offerings	July Receipts	July Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current				
Operating	18,347	24,812	126,324	157,242
Benevolence	1,321	3,333	10,191	20,000
Capital				
Campaign	2,135	2,035	12,737	11,622

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	18,347	22,007	-3,660
Year to Date	126,324	158,845	-32,521

Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!

Let's be faithful in our Pentecost generosity.
 This year presents a very great challenge for each
and every one of us! Please give prayerful
consideration to increasing your giving to St.
John's that we might continue the year in plenty,
rather than in want. Thank you for your continued
support!

ATTENDANCE

Our June Worship Attendance

June	2022	2023
1 st Sunday in June	109	124
2 nd Sunday in June	37(E) 74(L)	43(E) 61(L)
3 rd Sunday in June	*	34(E) 59(L)
4 th Sunday in June	*(E) 69(L)	38(E) 71(L)
Average for June	96	107

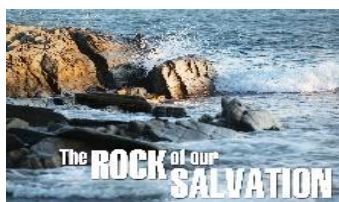


Summer Sunday morning worship
services; 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
There is no reason to miss
praising our Lord!



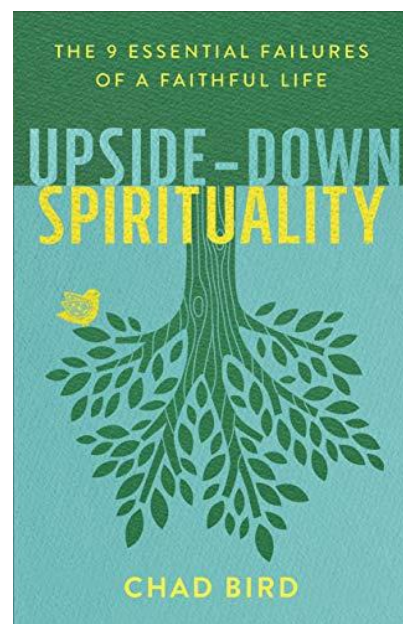
Thank You's for June 2022:

- ♥ Thank you to Naomi Smith, Amber & Kylie Zurn, Connie McMaster, Betty Mitchell & Ruth Ann Hankey for helping with the July newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continue to support and volunteer with the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- ♥ Thank you to our kitchen snack, drink and supply fairies!
- ♥ Thank you to Blair Dawson & Dean Crooks for repairing/replacing the air conditioning condenser unit platforms above the office.
- ♥ Thank you to Connie McMaster, Tammy Fleeger, Carol Runninger, Rose Montgomery, Cheryl Mechling, Naomi Smith & Ruth Ann Hankey for covering the phones during our secretarial vacancy.
- ♥ Thank you to Blair Dawson & Dean Crooks for replacing the shower doors in the bathrooms below the sanctuary.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped during Day Camp at the end of June, Our Youth Helpers, Kendall Bailey, William Bouch, Gage Duncan, Ella Fennel, Robert, John, Cassie, Laney and Marlee Smith.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who provided snacks and meals for the week of Day Camp, Krista Fennel, Tammy Fleeger, Judy Kozlosky, Pastor Johnson, and Toni Smail.
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger & Toni Smail for housecleaning the kitchen.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped with the over 80 luncheon. It was so good! Irene Brosious
- ♥ Thank you to EVERYONE who supports our Children's and Youth Ministries at St. Johns!
- ♥ Thank you to Bill Bouch for chaperoning the NEXUS youth trip.



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday,
August 13th 2023



Book Study

Wednesday Evenings This Fall

Beginning September 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Upside-Down Spirituality: the 9 Essential Failures of a Faithful Life, by Chad Bird.

"In our age when the church can too often seem like a poor copy of the world, Chad Bird challenges us to reclaim the astounding originality of our ancient, backward faith. Where the world stresses the importance of success, Bird invites readers to embrace nine specific failures in the areas of our personal lives, our relationships, and the church. Why? Because what human wisdom deems indispensable is so often an impediment to our spiritual growth, and what it deems insignificant is so often essential to it.

"With compelling examples from the Bible and today, Bird paints an enticing picture of the counterintuitive, countercultural life that God wants for us. He helps readers delight in all of the ways that Jesus turned the world upside-down, allowing us to experience true freedom, not from our weaknesses but in the midst of them."

*If you believe in the Big Bang
then you must believe in God,
because order does not spring
out of chaos.*



Internet Streaming

St. John's Live Broadcast

The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on YouTube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Katie's Cupboard



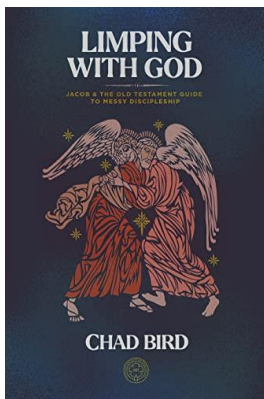
*"If only I had been there!" Luther imagines us saying.
"How quick I would have been to help the Baby."*

And yet, said Luther, "You only say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem."

Why don't you do it NOW? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need, you do to the Lord Christ himself." Martin Luther, Church Postil found in Institute of Lutheran Theology

Just a note to say "THANK YOU" to the folks of St Johns for serving our Risen, Living Lord Jesus by sustaining our neighbors thru Katie's Cupboard.

Please know your contributions, efforts to stock, clean, sort and maintain are noticed in the community and are blessing to many beyond measure.



Adult Sunday School Beginning September 17th
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."



A Summer Ministry Project Give a Child the Opportunity to Succeed in School

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference in keeping up in class. Public school is free, but few supplies are given to the students. These much needed supplies, may be more than some parents can afford. These supplies will have a HUGE impact on many children's education and love of learning. Please place your donated items in the box in the church narthex or the box in the new narthex (Gathering area). Thank you for your help!

All of us can collect school supplies! For each School Kit:

- **Four 70-sheet notebooks:** of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- **One 30-centimeter ruler:** or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **One pencil sharpener**
- **One blunt scissors** (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;** secure together with a rubber band
- **Five black or blue ballpoint pens** (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- **One box of 16 or 24 crayons**
- **One 2½" eraser**
- **One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag** approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps or a standard backpack.

All items should be new and in good condition.

Watch for sales as many items are on sale now for "Back to School".

The challenge is before us!

*Prayer brings us to
the very heart of God.*

AUGUST**August 6**

Assisting Ministers Karen Waugaman(E)
Debbie Bouch(L)
Lectors Linda Charley (E)
Emily Bouch (L)
Comm Assistants Patty and Kyle Kirkpatrick (E)
Mollie Bouch, Tabitha Bowser (L)
Acolytes Colvin Adkins(E)
William Bouch(L)
Camera Operators Robert John(E)
Keith Livengood(L)

August 13

Assisting Ministers Julie Smith(E)
Kay Thorell (L)
Lectors John Swanson(E)
Connie Choncek(L)
Comm Assistants Karen Waugaman, Robert John(E)
Acolytes Elizabeth Smoyer(E)
Quinn Kellner(L)
Camera Operators Nick Wranich(E)
Bill Bouch(L)

August 20

Assisting Ministers Nancy Pierce(E)
Charlie Bleakney(L)
Lectors Karen Waugaman (E)
Keith Livengood (L)
Comm Assistants Karen Waugaman, Nancy Pierce(E)
Brett and Megan Taylor, Cheryl Mechling, Sara Shafer(L)
Acolytes Brody Hodak(E)
Camryn Bowser(L)
Camera Operators Robert John(E)
Keith Livengood(L)

August 27

Assisting Ministers Becky Swanson(E)
Cheryl Mechling (L)
Lector Melissa Venesky(E)
Lance Whiteman(L)
Comm Assistants Amber Zurn, Lori Young(E)
Acolytes Stella Venesky(E)
Landon Crissman(L)
Camera Operators Nick Wranich(E)
Bill Bouch(L)

God has marvelous plans for your future.

God can be trusted.

*You may not know where you're going
But God's hand is on you wherever you go*

Love like God loves!

Remember to spread joy.

Altar Guild: Janice Smith, Betty Mitchell (E)
Deb & Bill Bouch (L)

Money Counters: Kyle Kirkpatrick, Wendy Hodak

Ushers: John Graff, Chris and Connie Choncek, Jeff Choncek.

*"Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for
joy to the God of Jacob!" (Psalm 81:1, ESV)*

Children's Hour:

See you all in the Fall!

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	TBA
Sexton	Michael Craft
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."*



August St. John's Lutheran Church 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot	4 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot	5 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot
6 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship: Communion Folk Festival	7	8	9 Pray for NALC Convocation	10 Pray for NALC Convocation	11 Pray for NALC Convocation	12
13 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 11:00 Worship	14 7:00 Council	16	17	18	19	20
20 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship: Communion 4:00 Church Picnic @ Fleeger Meadow	21 7:00 Mutual Ministry	22	23	24 1:00 Newsletter mailing	25	26
27 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship	28 7:00 Worship & Music	29	30	31		