

St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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

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August 2026



“Home Grown Tomatoes and Sweet Corn”

I love August. There is nothing better than Tomatoes and Sweet Corn. I wait all year long for them. Even though they are available throughout the year it's just not the same. Nancy and I wait for the locally grown tomatoes and sweet corn. They are worth the wait.

For me, August begins the harvest season. And with the harvest we thank God.

Deuteronomy 26 provides the most ancient liturgy which thanks God for the harvest. The purpose of the church, according to Deuteronomy 26 is to provide a place to come, receive offerings of thanksgiving, and to thank God for the harvest.

“² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.”

We gather in worship to Thank God!

We gather to acknowledge

where our blessing come from.

Come you thankful people come!

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson

Kittanning Ministerial Association

Presents

a

“Preach In”

Sunday, August 2, 2026

4:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Lawn

112 N Water St, Kittanning, PA 16201

**Local pastors will defy sure and certain death by
preaching spontaneously on Bible readings**

assigned to them

ON THE SPOT!!

Come hear God's Word and the preaching of it.

Music Included



Rally Day Breakfast -

September 13th at

9:45 a.m. in the Social Hall

Join us as we kick off a new year of Sunday School with our Rally Day intergenerational celebration, including light breakfast.

Orientation for all students, come and meet your teacher!
Games and fun!

Come join the fun and fellowship!

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Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

You can now make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" 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. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
3. Log in or donate as a guest.
4. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

To give through the app, search your phone's app store for "GivePlus Mobile" or contact the church office.

To give from your personal computer go to:
<https://secure.myvanco.com>

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



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

Mark Your Calendars

September 13	Rally Day
September 27	Progressive Workshop Luncheon
October 11	Harvest Home/Generosity Sunday
October 25	Reformation Sunday
November 8	Turkey/Ham Luncheon
December 6	Christmas Concert



➤ The July meeting was canceled. The next scheduled regular meeting of Council is August 11th.

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:

Ryan Shafer, Vice President	724-859-2749
Bill Bouch	724-859-0359
Chris Choncek	724-664-6947
Dean Crooks	724-664-2015
Richard Farah	724-859-0049
Tammy Fleeger	724-664-1773
Elijah Holt	860-534-0023
Gene Jazwiniski	412-720-9189
Patricia Kirkpatrick	724-525-0962
Susan Neal	724-763-8331
Brendan Swanson	724-525-7255
Jill Wranich	724-902-9389



Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Please consider joining our ministry. The need for shawls has increased and we are in need of people who are willing to touch the lives of those who are ill or grieving by making a shawl and offer hope, comfort and God's love. Fleece blankets are also welcomed. The mystery of the Prayer-Shawl is not in yarn or the needles, but in the action of God. Our hope is to discover God working in the lives of the ones we are praying for. God is also working in the lives of the knitters and crocheters. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting a shawl is welcome. This can also be a time to learn to knit or crochet. Shawls are created at home on your own time and at your own speed. **Please bring completed shawls to the office. Prayer tags are available for you to sign so recipients know who made the shawl.**

Kids and Youth August 2026

VBS decorators, helpers, and supporters!
Let Julie know if you would like to help!



Decorating and preparing

July 27th-31st
& August 3rd!

Help w VBS August 4th -6th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

GRACE ACRES
VBS
BARNYARD CARNIVAL

★ **AUGUST 4TH-6TH**
★ **5:30-7:30PM** ★
AT ST JOHNS KITTANNING

AGES PRE-K- 5TH GRADE!
PARENTS TO STAY WITH KIDS 6 AND YOUNGER

Call **724-548-2051** for details
★ **SIGN UP AT** ★
www.tinyurl.com/stjohnskittanningvbs2026

FUN! FAITH! FRIENDS! **GAMES! MUSIC! PRIZES!**

Intents Camp Photo:



NALC church camp packs 300 flood buckets for disaster relief. One hundred (100) flood buckets went immediately up to Tyrone, PA to help alleviate the aftermath of flash flooding.



Folk Fest Parking
Lot Youth Group
Fundraiser!
Just 4, 2-hour time
slots to fill,
weather permitted.
Please see Julie, if
you and your family
can help out!
Thanks!

Youth Group

Help Prep for VBS: Dates:
July 27-31, August 3rd

Help with VBS! August 4-6!

Folk Fest Fundraiser: July 30-Aug. 2





- 2 Joseph Acerni, Gage Duncan
 3 Teresa Zydonik, Randy Sedwick
 Pastor Bish
 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, Kylea Zimmerman, Ava Rupp
 14 Gary Zurn
 15 Bob Helm
 16 Gene Hughes
 17 Olivia McGalla
 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 Donovan Crawford, Parker Crawford
 30 Hadley Heller
 31 Todd Stitt



Our June Church Offerings

Offerings	June Receipts	June Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current				
Operating	23,662	27,974	143,632	167,842
Benevolence	1,504	3,333	12,055	20,000
Capital				
Campaign	1,487	1,655	9,786	9,930

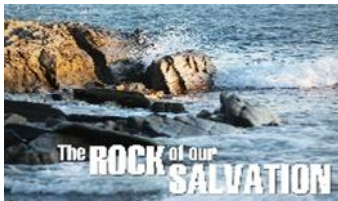
Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	23,662	23,228	435
Year to Date	143,632	158,928	-15,296



ATTENDANCE

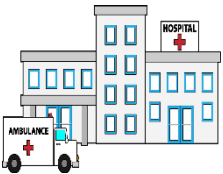
Our June Worship Attendance

June	2025	2026
1 st Sunday in June	120	133
2 nd Sunday in June	148	80
3 rd Sunday in June	40(E) 84(L)	52(E) (L)
4 th Sunday in June	59(E) 58(L)	41(E) L
5 th Sunday in June	80(E) 95(L)	N/A
Average for June	136	106



Rock of our Salvation Worship

**8:30 a.m. Sunday,
August 16th and 30th 2026**



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.

Lord, make us mindful of the joy your grace can be to us. Grant us the gift of your presence, we pray.



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 July 2026:

- ♥ Thank you to Mary Jane Dawson, Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty Mitchell, Susan Neal, and Janice Smith 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 everyone who helped support our NALC Camps, in prayer and more!
- ♥ Thank you to for keeping our outdoors looking great: Blair & Mary Jane Dawson, Sharon Febinger, Mark Hankey, Robert John and Vaila Clever.
- ♥ To the Over 80's Luncheon crew: Mark Hankey, Jack & Debbie Griffin, Connie McMaster, Blair & Mary Jane Dawson, Tammy Fleeger, Scott Stirling, Trisha, Paige, & Payton Smail, Rich & Darlene Farah, Rick, Juanita, & Robert John, Sandy Duncan, Colvin Adkins, Gene Hughes, and Angela Clever.
- ♥ I would like to thank all of my very special Elfs that helped in every way on the Over 80 luncheon. I could not have done it without each and every one of you. It was truly a awesome weekend, it was a lot of work, but a whole lot of fun. Please know I truly appreciated each and every one of you for all your work, no matter what I ask you to do you jumped in and did it. Toni
- ♥ I would like to thank Toni and her crew for another delicious and beautifully presented dinner for us "Over 80 Folks." I know that a lot of planning and preparation was necessary for such a lovely dinner and I, for one, really appreciate it. Rose Montgomery
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth and elementary camps!
- ♥ Thank you to our VBS team, and folks already preparing items.
- ♥ Thank you to all who continually support our children and youth ministries!
- ♥ Thank you to Robert John for continuing to help organize the Youth storage areas!
- ♥ Thank you to Sandy Duncan and Kay Thorell for baking the communion bread.
- ♥ Thank you to Rich and Darlene Farah for providing the fellowship hour July 19.



Sharing the Bounty

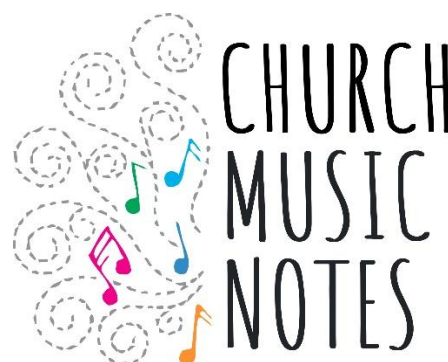
At times our gardens under produce and at times they over produce. Over producing gives us the opportunity to share

with others. Place on the table, next to the water cooler in the Gathering Space, your over abundance to share.

Please feel free to take from the table what you like and can use. Some weeks there may be lots, others maybe not so much.

You do not need to put anything on the table in order to enjoy a share from the table. There will be a container with plastic bags under the table for your goodies.

Enjoy!



🎵 As we look ahead to the fall, we anticipate some openings for ringers in the bell choir. Some music experience is helpful but not required. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:15.

🎵 We are also hopeful that we can get some more guys to sing with us in the vocal choir. Please keep that in prayer.

🎵 Special thanks to Robert John for moving the bell cabinets to the choir room. That was a huge undertaking that is really appreciated. We now can have all the bell music in one area!

Rebecca Veith
Director of Music

**Adult Sunday School Begins
September 13th**



Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:

www.stjohnskittanning.org

Here you will find: Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events, program information, and more.



Katie's Cupboard

Thinking "with the box".....

Cake mixes (everyone needs a birthday cake), Pancake mix, Bisquick (useful for biscuits, cakes, cookies, etc.), Jiffy cornbread, Boxed mashed potatoes, flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda, gravy packets, & boxed stuffing to accompany our canned proteins.

All useful things to create and bake things from home

Jelly, canned fruits, Knorr pasta or rice packets (Rice a Roni) are always great to have~

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

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



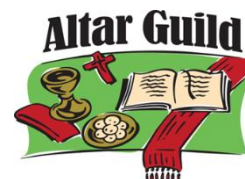
Internet Streaming St. John's Live

The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on You Tube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. as well as 8:30 a.m. service Sundays.

<http://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

Needed for Altar Care:

We are **still** looking for volunteers to help with every Sunday, can you serve?



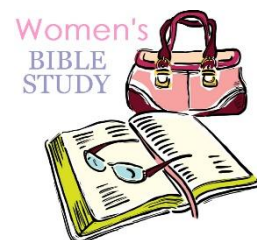
Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, August 15th 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.

Women's Bible Study

... will return at the King's restaurant on **Tuesday, September 8th at noon.** Any questions, please contact Cheryl Mechling at rock92@comcast.net All are welcome!



AND BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS A SUMMER CELEBRATION CAKE:

Place these in a 9x13 foil pan. Add birthday candles if you wish, slide into a 2-gallon Ziploc or cover with saran wrap.

Choose your favorite soda flavor (e.g., cola, lemon-lime, or root beer).

Combine 1 can of soda with 1 box of cake mix in a mixing bowl.

Stir the mixture until just combined; avoid overmixing.

Pour the batter into a greased cake pan.

Bake according to the cake mix instructions, usually around 30-35 minutes.

Let the cake cool before frosting.



Over 80 luncheon favorites

Ham Balls

Ingredients

- 1 pound ham loaf
- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 egg
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon yellow mustard



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and grease a 9x13 baking dish.
2. In a large bowl, combine the ham loaf, ground pork, egg, graham cracker crumbs and milk. 1 pound ham loaf, 1 pound ground pork, 1 egg, 1 cup graham cracker crumbs, 1/2 cup milk
3. Use a 1/3 cup measuring cup (or a large cookie scoop) to make balls out of the meat mixture and place into prepared pan; set aside.
4. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the ketchup, tomato sauce, vinegar, brown sugar and yellow mustard. 1/2 cup ketchup, 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce, 1/4 cup vinegar, 2/3 cup brown sugar, 1/2 teaspoon yellow mustard
5. Pour the sauce over the ham balls and bake for 50-60 minutes, or until the ham balls reach an internal temperature of 160°F.

Mayo-Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Ingredients

- 4 large boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut in half to make 8
- 1 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- Chopped parsley, or basil for garnish
- Salt and pepper, if you feel you need more



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. In a small mixing bowl, combine the mayonnaise with the 1/2 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp pepper. Stir well.
3. Take another small bowl and add the freshly grated parmesan cheese.
4. Prepare a baking sheet with parchment paper.
5. Dip each chicken breast into the mayo (both sides) until the breast is covered. Next, roll it in the parmesan cheese and place the chicken on the baking sheet. Add another round of salt and pepper.
6. Bake for 35 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through to an internal temperature of 165°F.
7. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with fresh chopped parsley. Serve!

People Helping People



PWAC

Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County

Join us September 27 after church to benefit the awesome programs this organization oversees in our county. The menu is Salsbury Steak w gravy, Mashed potato, Green Beans, Noodles, coleslaw and PIES! This is a "by donation" event underwritten by THRIVENT Funds. Come hungry y'all



PROGRESSIVE
LAWN & LANDSCAPING

EST. 2021
PROGRESSIVE
WOOD WORKS



PROGRESSIVE
COMMERCIAL CLEANING

Tropical fruit grows in an Armstrong County church

St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning Borough has a pineapple growing in its choir room



Armstrong County has an unusual sprout of crop growing inside of St. John's Lutheran Church — a pineapple.

What started as a hobby for Rebecca Veith, the church's organist and director of music, has borne fruit after five years.

"I never dreamed we would actually have a fruit-producing plant," Veith admitted.

The roughly 12-inches-long plant sits in the church choir room, where it started sprouting in February.

According to Veith she got the idea for growing pineapples using crown tops from her sister, Patty Hauck, who grows pineapples outdoors in Florida.

Not an expert on pineapples, Veith said, there's a lot of mysteries about how this pineapple fruit came to start growing.

She has been in contact with her sister, but with Veith being a novice on growing pineapples, she admits there are still a few unknowns about why it started to sprout.

The biggest one she mentioned was how she didn't know how the plant had been pollinated, noting that the pineapple has only been growing indoors and the typical outdoor methods aren't available in Armstrong County.

Veith suspects that it's more than likely it self-pollinated, but admits no one knows for sure.

Whatever the method, the plant has been steadily growing.

It also has become something of an in-house joke among the church members, as Veith was constantly asked about the status of her pineapples, and she always joked that she would contact the media if they ever grew.

It's also been a source of joy for the church, with Veith saying, "(The growth) progress has been very inspirational and given us an emotional boost, especially with some choir members undergoing major life changing events like serious illness and loss of a job during this time."

She admitted that while she wasn't sure if the pineapple would ever reach full maturity, she had been keeping a close eye on it, and doing all she could.

"I don't know if we'll ever get any more fruit, but we have this one pineapple," Veith said.

When asked what she'll do with her pineapple if it reaches full maturity, Veith said, "Who knows, we may schedule a luau in early fall to celebrate."



Pictured is Patty Hauck, Veith's sister who inspired Veith to try growing pineapples, with one of her own pineapples in Florida.

Reference: Woynicz, Kieran; "Tropical fruit grows in an Armstrong County church", Leader Times, July 21, 2026, https://www.leadertimes.com/news/tropical-fruit-grows-in-an-armstrong-county-church/article_dbca983a-2f0d-4d13-8da9-ffa2d7edf63e.html

**August 2**

Assisting Ministers	Karen Waugaman (E) Sara Shafer (L)
Lectors	Nancy Pierce (E) Val Lager (L)
Comm Assistants	Karen Waugaman & Karina Blose (E) Charlie Bleakney & Deb Bouch (L)
Acolytes	TBA (E)
Camera Operators	Anna Venesky (L) Robert John (E) Bill Bouch (L)

August 9

Assisting Ministers	John Swanson (E) Mollie Bouch (L)
Lectors	Mitchell Wranich (E) Emily Bouch (L)
Comm Assistants	Becky Swanson & Jill Wranich (E)
Acolytes	TBA (E) Ella Fennell (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Keith Livengood (L)

August 16

Assisting Ministers	Julie Smith (E) Kay Thorell (L)
Lectors	Melissa Venesky (E) Lance Whiteman (L)
Comm Assistants	Amber Zurn, Melissa Venesky (E) Lance & Christine Whiteman (L)
Acolytes	TBA (E) TBA (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Bill Bouch (L)

August 23

Assisting Ministers	Nancy Pierce (E) Keith Livengood (L)
Lector	Linda Charley (E) Elijah Holt (L)
Comm Assistants	Karen Waugaman & Nancy Pierce (E)
Acolytes	TBA (E) TBA (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) TBA (L)

August 30

Assisting Ministers	Becky Swanson (E) Gene Hughes (L)
Lector	Julie Smith (E) Colvin Adkins (L)
Comm Assistants	Gracie Hodak & John Swanson (E)
Acolytes	TBA (E) Bill Bouch (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Bill Bouch (L)

AUGUST

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

Money Counters: Jill Wranich, Elijah Holt, Gene Jazwinski

Ushers: John Graff, Chris Choncek, Jeff Choncek, and Dean Crooks.

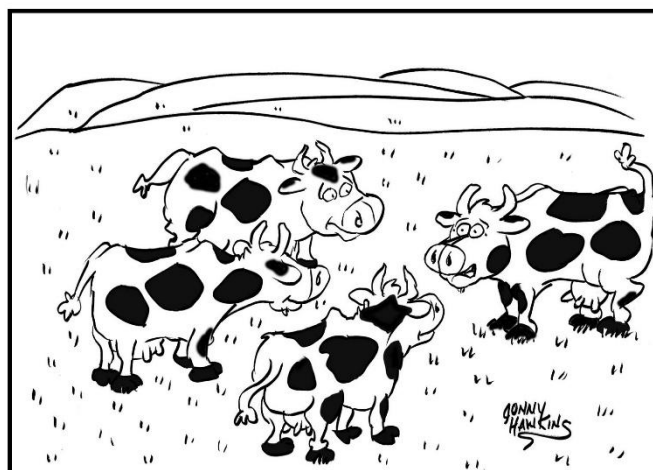
**Children's Hour:**

See you all in the Fall!

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Angela B. Clever
Sexton	TBA
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"*



"Before we eat, let's say grace."

*The heavens declare the glory of God.
We preach Christ.
Come meet Jesus this Sunday.*

August St. John's Lutheran Church 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			29	30 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot	31 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot	1 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Parking Lot
2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:30 Church Picnic @ Belmont Folk Festival	3 7:00 Property	4 5:30 to 7:30 pm Vacation Bible School	5 5:30 to 7:30 pm Vacation Bible School	6 5:30 to 7:30 pm Vacation Bible School	7 Pray for the NALC Convocation	8
9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship	10 7:00 Council	11 7:00 Stewardship	12	13	14	15 8:00 Men's Breakfast
16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion Rock of Our Salvation 11:00 Worship: Communion	17 7:00 Evangelism	18	19	20	21	22
23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship	24 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	25	26	27 1:00 Newsletter mailing	28	29
30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion Rock of Our Salvation 11:00 Worship	31	1	2	3 7:00 pm Catechism Parents meeting	4	5