

St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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

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February 2023



EXCEPT TO LOVE
ONE another.

Romans 13:8, NRSV

The Month of Love

**C.S. Lewis
on Love
(1898-1963)**

Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. There are many things below it, but there

are also things above it. You cannot make it the basis of a whole life. It is a noble feeling, but it is still a feeling. Now no feeling can be relied on to last in its full intensity, or even to last at all. Knowledge can last, principles can last, habits can last; but feelings come and go. And in fact, whatever people say, the state called "being in love" usually does not last. If the old fairy-tale ending "They lived happily ever after" is taken to mean "They felt for the next fifty years exactly as they felt the day before they were married," then it says what probably never was nor ever could be true, and would be highly undesirable if it were. Who could bear to live in that excitement for even five years? What would become of your work, your appetite, your sleep, your friendships? But, of course, ceasing to be "in love" need not mean ceasing to love. Love in this second sense – love as distinct from "being in love" is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both parents ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be "in love" with someone else. "Being in love" first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it.

See you in Sunday School and Worship,

Pastor Johnson



Habitat Luncheon February 26, 2023

St. John's Habitat Luncheon
Social Ministry & Fellowship Committee
will be holding a luncheon
On Sunday, February 26th following worship
to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

Please place your donations to benefit Armstrong
County Habitat for Humanity
by marking your offering envelope "Habitat Luncheon"
in the space marked "other"
and place in the offering plate during worship.

Our menu is: pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut,
vegetable, applesauce, cake and beverages.

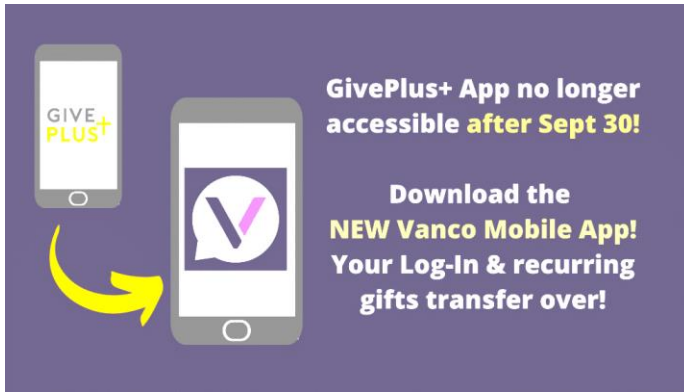


Ash Wednesday Worship Service

The Ash Wednesday Communion Service will be held on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. This is the beginning of our Lenten journey. Please plan to attend this meaningful service of ashes and Holy Communion as we embark together on our Lenten Disciplines.

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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.

Mark Your Calendars

February 22	Ash Wednesday
February 26	Habitat for Humanity luncheon
April 2	Palm Sunday
April 4	Healing Service
April 6	Maundy Thursday
April 7	Good Friday
April 9	Easter
May 7	Spring Concert
May 28	Pentecost/Confirmation



- Elected Pastor Johnson as President, Kyle Kirkpatrick as Vice-President, and John Swanson as Secretary of Council.
- Approved recommending to the January 29th Congregational Meeting the proposed budget and Benevolence Breakdown.
- Approved Lent be designated as a time of "Spiritual Renewal and Recommitment to the Lord." All regular committee and council meetings will be canceled during Lent and Bible Study or Worship will be provided with the goal of every member participating in at least one Bible Study and every member recommitting to worship regularly.
- Heard that St. John's was the recipient of a generous grant from the Dale H. and Jeane V. Smart Foundation to pay for two video projectors, carpet in the sanctuary, and a new carillon.
- Approved contracting with Donald Rosencrance to do the footer, block and brickwork for the retaining wall for the Memorial Garden.
- Received Thank You's from Bethesda Children's Home, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Bethesda Lutheran Services, Water Missions, Lutheran Bible Translators (Ethiopian Seminary Project) and WVU Campus Ministry.

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:

Connie Choncek	724-664-1955
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

Kids and Youth February 2023

KIDS **MOVIE** NIGHT

Dinner included!



Tuesday Feb. 7th
5:00-6:30pm

Dinner Included! ... Pizza, Popcorn, and Juice!

Kids ages Pre-K to 5th Grade

Cost: FREE!

Everyone gets to take home a prize!

Upcoming in March:
Kids Lent Retreat
Family Bowling Night



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Fundraiser

Annual

BREAKFAST

Casserole

Bake Off!

Win the Sought-after

EGGO Trophy!

After 11am Worship

Sunday February 5th



Sunday
February 12th
Youth Group
6:30-8pm
80s Night!
Best Costume
Prizes, & Talent
Show

No Youth Group Feb. 19th

3rd week of Feb. Stay posted

Pop Up!

Service Project!

Sunday February 26th
Right after the Habitat Lunch

12:30-1:30pm

Board Games &
Big Snack Prizes!





- ♥ To Janice Smith, Ruth Ann Hankey & Betty & Alan Mitchell for helping with the January newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped make the Presents for Parents an awesome event: Rick & Juanita John, Robert John, Donna Livengood, Deb Griffin, Anna Venesky, Stella Venesky, Brendan Swanson, Pastor Jim & Susan Neal, Sharon Febinger, Connie McMaster, Toni Smail, Kim Barnes, Gene Hughes, Megan Taylor, Jerah Wranich, Julie Smith, Emily & Mollie Bouch, Ella Fennell, Cassidy Smith, Bill Bouch Jr., Pastor Johnson and Colvin Adkins.
- ♥ Thank you to Robert John, Mark Hankey, Blair & Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Charley, Karen Waugaman, Rebecca Veith and Pastor Johnson for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.
- ♥ Thank you to Mary Jane Dawson and Karen Waugaman for packing up the creche after Christmas.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson and Pastor Johnson for the taking down the Christmas tree and Mark Hankey for disposing of the tree.
- ♥ Thank you to Emil & Rose Debnar for keeping our parking lot clear of snow.
- ♥ Thanks to the Evangelical schools, both nursery and kindergarten at the Worthington Evangelical Lutheran church for their December donations to Katie's cupboard. The household products and food items were a blessing!
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with the annual report.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continues to support, organize, sort & donate to the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- ♥ Thank you to Rose Debnar for the candy for the welcome table.
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped in any way with the funeral dinner for Nancy Capone: Connie McMaster, Toni Smail, Deb Griffin, Lynda Howlett, Karen Waugaman, Carol Runniger, Mary Jane Dawson, Cheryl Mechling, Pat & Mary Olinger, Ruth Ann Hankey, Crystal Olinger, Rose Debnar, Betty Mitchell, Janet Means and Mike Craft.
- ♥ To Bud Wolfe for making the beautiful video projector shelf for the back of the sanctuary, and to Dean Crooks and Blair Dawson for installing it and the monitor, and to Bill Bouch for hooking it all up.
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with the Ladies banquet. We have so much to "bee" thankful for: Ken & Jo Ellen Bowman, Bouch family, Wranich family Robert John, Joe & Spring Couslin, Connie McMaster, Tammy Fleeger, Beekeepers of ABCI, Amy Sedwick, Julie Smith & family, Betty Mitchell, Rick & Juanita John, Andrea Hilty, Deb Griffin, Robert John, Mary Jane Dawson, Kim Barnes, Gene Hughes, Karen Waugaman and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to Jessica Bailey and Pastor Johnson for chaperoning the Youth Group 1/2 Lock In.

- ♥ Thank you to Pastor Johnson, Melissa Venesky, Jessica Bailey, Amber Zurn, and Matt Smith for chaperoning and driving to Quake.
- ♥ Thank you to EVERYONE who helps and supports our lemon, uplifting ministry!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who is able to quickly step in, by helping as a participant at worship, when there is a need.
- ♥ Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers and subs who are committed to support our kids and teach God's word to our children!
- ♥ Thank you to the praise band for your time and talents, Dave Brooks, Ken King, Matt, Cassie, Laney, and Marlee Smith, Sharon Smith, Brendan Swanson, Stella Venesky, and Jerah Wranich!
- ♥ Thank you to EVERYONE at St. John's, who continually support our Children's and Youth Ministries in many and various ways! You are appreciated!
- ♥ Thank you to Bud Wolfe for building the beautiful video projector shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and to Steve Lash for donating the wood.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks and Blair Dawson for installing video projector shelf in the back of the sanctuary.
- ♥ Thank you to Carol Runniger for transporting our catechism students!

Women's Bible Study



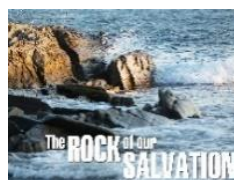
will be held at King's restaurant on Thursday, February 9th at noon. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at

rosetrix_38@comcast.net. All are welcome!

CHURCH MUSIC NOTES

We will be starting rehearsals for the Spring Concert in February. This is a great time to join us as a new or returning choir member! Hope you can help! Thanks!

Rebecca Veith - Director of Music



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sundays

February 12th & 19th



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday February 11th

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. Everything will be done by 9:00 a.m.



- 1 Sam Bowser, Jr.
- 4 Samantha Pyle,
Payton Smail
- 5 Elodie Round
- 6 Alyssa Hankey
- 7 Mark Hankey, Jill Wranich
- 8 Jason Debnar
- 9 Amy Merryman, Cassidy Smith, Delaney Smith
- 12 Linda Olinger, Kylie Zurn
- 14 Benjamin Swanson, Amelia Koeller
- 15 Richard Smail, Jr., Christina Hilty
- 16 Andrea Ehrman
- 17 John Graff, Jessica Arnette, Nancy Johnson,
- 18 Kent Walker
- 19 Natalie Reitano
- 21 Erica Kirkpatrick
- 23 Mathias Koeller
- 24 Dirk Ahlgrim, Ian Fleeger, Melody Slater,
Gracie Hodak, Theodore Round
- 25 Mary Dawson, Hillary Schultze
- 26 Sara Shafer
- 27 Patrick Febinger

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



To the Family of
Nancy Joan Capone
*Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon her.*



Square Dance Fellowship Event

Who: You—everyone is invited
When: February 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: The Social Hall

Why: Fellowship and Fun
You don't have to know how to square dance to attend! Our caller will lead us through the basics! Cost: \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per couple to help pay for the caller. Kids are free!

Be There

AND

Be Square!



Our December Church Offerings

Offerings	Dec Receipts	Dec Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current	64,062	24,812	289,205	297,743
Operating				
Benevolence	2,104	3,333	22,279	40,000
Capital				
Campaign	2,805	2,035	41,435	24,425
Current Account	Income	Expenses		Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	64,062	23,540		40,522
Year to Date	289,205	300,624		-11,419

*Christ calls you
to be a part of
His mission and
His ministry
through the work
of St. John's.*

ATTENDANCE

December	2022	2021
1 st Sunday in Dec	121	107
2 nd Sunday in Dec	43(E) 67 (L)	30(E) *(L)
3 rd Sunday in Dec	121	104
4 th Sunday in Dec	44	17(E) 76(L)
Average for Dec	99	101
Christmas Eve early	142	145



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. and whenever there is an 8:30 a.m. worship service.

Marked by love



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer

*"To love another person is
to help them love God."*

—Søren Kierkegaard

Katie's Cupboard -

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY FOR
THOSE WHO KNOW IT BEST.....

As always, thanks so much for your support, donations and prayers!



This hymn last month got me to thinking about sharing some testimony from those whom our cupboard serves ~
-I said, thanks for helping me unload my car tonight! "my neighbor has no car, needs laundry done, has some change for the machines, but no detergent. I will take him, but can't help as things are tight for me too. Oh, thank YOU for this, they will be so grateful!"

-Met a grandma, & mom, with 2 kids. Dad was out of work. It was a great blessing for them to come over and get what they needed! And they came for Trunk or Treat!

- Met in the alley, hey guys, how can we help you today? "This is so awesome, our neighbor at the high rise can't get here, we told her we would see if there is something here she can use, is that okay?" "She doesn't have a lot and we try and help her any way we can"~

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

The best Valentine's Day card of all was sent to you in the form of Jesus.

*You are
the Beloved of God!
Remember always
that God loved you first, and He
will always love you best!*



REVERSE LENT CALENDAR

*Instead of giving up
something for Lent, please
consider giving something away!*

February 22 Chicken Noodle Soup

February 23 Peanut Butter

February 24 Bar Soap

February 25 Boxed Potatoes

February 26 Shelf Stable Juice

February 27 Grape Jelly

February 28 Tuna Helper

March 1 Macaroni/Cheese

March 2 Canned Fruit

March 3 Canned Tomatoes

March 4 Alfredo Sauce

March 5 Feminine Products

March 6 Monetary Donation

March 7 Canned Meat

March 8 Baked Beans

March 9 Box of crackers

March 10 Rice

March 11 Flour

March 12 Pasta

March 13 Spaghetti Sauce

March 14 Cereal

March 15 Canned Meat

March 16 Tomato Soup

March 17 Granola Bars

March 18 Canned Meal (ex: ravioli)

March 19 Shelf Stable Juice

March 20 Peanut Butter

March 21 Syrup

March 22 Pancake Mix

March 23 Mixed Vegetables

March 24 Soup

March 25 Box of Cereal

March 26 Flour

March 27 Canned Beef Stew

March 28 Shampoo

March 29 Your favorite food

March 30 Kleenex

March 31 Muffin Mix

April 1 Canned Fruit

April 2 Flour

April 3 Laundry Detergent

April 4 Feminine Products

April 5 Cleaning Products

April 6 Canned Chicken

April 7 Hand Soap

April 8 Deodorant

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED !

& THANKS FOR BLESSING OUR

KATIE'S CUPBOARD



For the Valentine's Day holiday, please take a little time to remember our shut-ins, college students and our members in the Armed Forces. A card or letter from home would certainly brighten their day and let them know they are being thought of.

For your convenience, their names & addresses are listed:

SHUT-INS

Christine Schall
313 Red Mill Road
Kittanning, PA 16201

Glee Duncan
The Ridge at Heritage Meadows
1126 Ross Avenue
Ford City, PA 16226

Helen Boarts
147 Butler Road
P O Box 974
Kittanning, PA 16201

Donald Hilty
431 East Brady Road
Kittanning, PA 16201

Jane Neidig
1360 North Grant Avenue
Kittanning, PA 16201

Ed Leard
2204 Maple Drive
Ford City, PA 16226

Virginia Dodd
133 Deer Lane
Kittanning, PA 16201

Mary Elder
134 Marwood Road
Rm 2171
Cabot, PA 16023

Vera Hartung
246 East Brady Road
Kittanning, PA 16201

Carole Cable
Concordia Lutheran Ministries
Rm 2235 Lund Bldg.
134 Marwood Road
Cabot, PA 16023

Corbin & Pat Bowser
134 Marwood Road
Apt 2047
Cabot, PA 16023

John Gray
100 Westminister Road
Dallas, GA 30132

MILITARY

Bret Neyman
908 Murray Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sophia Whiteman
GCC #2762
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Olivia Whiteman
GCC #1304
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Natalie Reitano
1010 Woodbury Street
Apt. #303
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Abby Purvis
352 McVile Rd.
Freeport, PA 16229

Elizabeth John
Grove City college
GCC # 470
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Elizabeth Shafer
Unit #4
3508 Cable Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Ben Swanson
1263 School Street
Indiana, PA 15701

Ashleigh Choncek
SMC#4822
Duquesne University
1345 Vickroy Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FEBRUARY

February 5

Assisting Minister	Gene Hughes
Lector	Sara Shafer
Communion Assistants	Sara Shafer, Cheryl Mechling, Nancy Pierce, Deb Bouch
Acolytes	Quinn Kellner, Anna Venesky Callie Adkins, Stella Venesky
Welcome Team	The Venesky family
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

February 12

Assisting Ministers	John Swanson (E) Nancy Pierce (L)
Lectors	Becky Swanson (E) Linda Charley (L)
Comm Assistants	Becky Swanson, Nick Wranich(E)
Acolytes	Mitchell Wranich(E) Emma Nemchek(L)
Welcome Teams	The Rupp family(E) The Bouch family(L)
Camera Operators	Robert John (E) Bill Bouch (L)

February 19

Assisting Ministers	Karen Waugaman(E) Rose Montgomery(L)
Lectors	Cassie Smith(E) Connie Choncek(L)
Comm Assistants	Melissa Venesky(E) Karen Waugaman(E) Brett & Megan Taylor, Tabitha Bowser(L)
Acolytes	Keith Livengood(L) Noelle Smoyer(E) Lucas & Camryn Bowser(L) Kendall Bailey, William Bouch(L)
Welcome Teams	Jill & Mitchell Wranich(E) The Choncek family(L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich(E) Bill Bouch(L)

February 22 Ash Wednesday

Assisting Minister	Karen Waugaman
Lector	Rose Montgomery
Comm Assistants	Nancy Pierce, Deb & Mollie Bouch Robert John
Acolyte	Landon Crissman
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich

February 26

Assisting Minister	Cheryl Mechling
Lector	Robert John
Comm Assistants	Gene Hughes, Julie Smith
Acolyte	Delaney Smith
Welcome Team	The Smith family
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

FEBRUARY

Altar Guild: Sharon Febinger, Wendy Hodak

Money Counters: Karen Waugaman, Kraig Walker & John Swanson

Ushers: Mark Hankey, David Hilty, Ed Walker, Kraig Walker



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


St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Christine Lettrich
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."



February St. John's Lutheran Church 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 Children's Hour 6:00 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 Pastor's Study 8:00 Senior choir	2 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany Green 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:00 Youth Group Bake off Fundraiser	6 7:00 Property	7 5:00 Kids Pre-K to 5 th Movie Night	8 9:30 Children's Hour 6:00 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 Pastor's Study 8:00 Senior choir	9 9:30 Children's Hour 12:00 Women's bible study @ Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	10	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 to 8:00 Square Dance
12 Sixth Sunday of Epiphany Green 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	13 7:00 Council	14	15 9:30 Children's Hour 6:00 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 Pastor's Study 8:00 Senior choir	16 9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Newsletter 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	17	18
19 Transfiguration of our Lord White 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	20	21	22 9:30 Children's Hour 7:00 Ash Wednesday Communion service No Choir	23 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	24	25
26 First Sunday of Lent Purple 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:00 Habitat luncheon 12:30 Youth Group	27 7:00 Lenten Bible Study	28 7:00 KMA Worship	29 7:00 Lenten Bible Study			