
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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November 2023

GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED

I began to thank God for all my many blessings. Time stood still. I realized that I am the richest person in the world, because I have you.

I am rich in blessings because I was claimed by Christ from before the foundations of the world. The Holy Spirit was with me in utero. The gift of faith a constant since before I can remember. I have been surrounded by faithful parents, faithful family. It takes me longer and longer every All Saints Sunday to thank God for all the Saints in the church Triumphant that surround me in the race of faith.

I thank God for my current family and friends, the church Militant, who surround me in the flesh. I am never alone. The body of Christ is a constant.

I came home from the National Convocation this past August thanking God that we are part of the North American Lutheran Church. I was so impressed that as the NALC, we keep the first things first. The mission and ministry done through the NALC on our behalf, both nationally and internationally, is astounding.

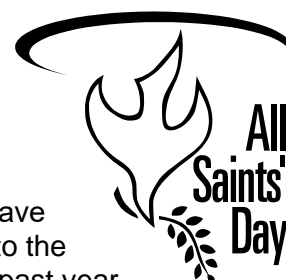
It was no different at our Mission District convocation on October 21st. The amount of mission and ministry facilitated by our mission district is overwhelming, considering the fact that we are a mere 43 congregations.

I thank God for you. St. John's provides a tremendous amount of mission and ministry starting with Katie's Cupboard and reaching around the world—all in Christ's name! The light of Christ shines brightly throughout Kittanning thanks to you!

See you in Worship,
Pastor Johnson

All Saints Sunday is November 5th

On November 5, 2023, we will observe All Saints' Sunday. This day is celebrated as the Church's Memorial Day, when we will remember the members of St. John's Lutheran Church who have gone from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant during the past year. This is a very meaningful and important Festival of the Church, which dates back to the Third Century. Let us come together on this day to celebrate All Saints' Sunday and to remember each of the following members and their lives:



Nancy Graff

Marlene Chasse

Nancy Joan Capone

Donald Hilty

Charles Raymond Harpster, Jr.

John W. Gray

Glee M. Duncan

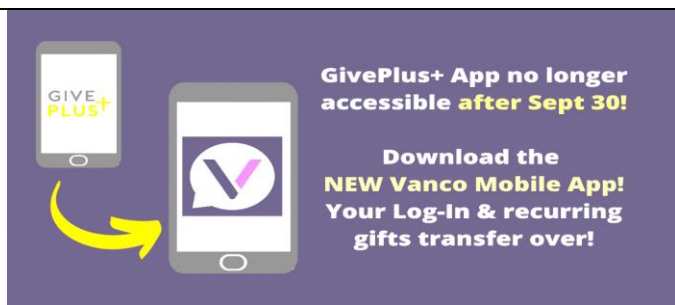
Jennifer Eve Kohl

Naomi Smith

We will also dedicate the columbarium on All Saints Sunday.

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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

November 5	All Saints Sunday
November 12	Thrivent Turkey Dinner
December 3	Christmas Concert
December 17	Christmas Pageant



- Heard that Pastor Bish has liquidated the Eric Bish Scholarship Fund.
- Heard that the outside columbarium will be dedicated on All Saints Sunday.
- approved Rich and Darlene Farah and Ashten Farah for membership.
- Heard that new bell tables are being manufactured to replace the current 50 year old bell tables.
- Approved calling a Congregational Meeting after worship on December 10th for the purpose of electing Congregational Council Members, and to vote on allocating the proceeds from the New Church Building Fund.
- Approved the use of the Social Hall for a Progressive Workshop Christmas dance, Wednesday, December 20th.
- Received thank yous from Bethesda Lutheran Services, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Lutheran World Relief, Water Missions, Lutheran World Relief, Hope Lutheran Church Smethport, Lutheran Bible Translators (for the Ethiopian Seminary), Spiritual Orphans Network (Ukraine relief) and North American Lutheran Seminary for donations.

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

*Every Sunday morning
Jesus is waiting
to meet you in church.*

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.

Kids and Youth
November 2023

World Kindness Week

Creating For KINDNESS

Kids Art Event

St. Johns Kittanning

Tuesday Nov. 14th

5:00-7:00pm

Kids Preschool-High School

Cost: Free, includes hot dogs, popcorn and drink

Parents welcome to stay, or drop off.

Permission slip must be signed if dropping off.

Registration/ sign in at door.

Come anytime during the event that works for your schedule that night.

Art-Maker stations through the evening

Kids will make a variety of items that we will distribute to local hospitals, nursing homes and shut ins, or someone who you know needs some kindness, joy and cheer

THANK
YOU!

Sunday School Event, Nov. 5th

Kids will be making

Thank You's for First Responders!

The Baby King!

Kids Christmas Pageant 2023!

Rehearsals begin Sunday November 19th, During Sunday School, 9:45-10:40. Additional Practices may be needed.

All classes are
welcome to participate!



YOUTH
GROUP

SUNDAY NOV. 5th
YOUTH GROUP 6:30-8PM
GAME SHOW NIGHT
70'S RETRO NIGHT!

Sunday Nov. 12th
NO YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Nov. 19th

Colton Dixon and Jordan Feliz!

Meet at Word of Life Church, Greensburg.
Carpool available if needed.

Tickets \$34.99 plus fees. Funds available, if needed.

Please see Julie if you'd like to go!



Sunday Nov. 26th
NO YOUTH GROUP
HAPPY THANKSGIVING WEEKEND!

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT WEEKEND!

RSVP for Quake Early Bird Sign Up,
is due BEFORE Nov. 15th

Please see Julie if you plan on attending
QUAKE Pittsburgh is Feb. 9-11th 2024

BREATHE.

Matthew 11:28

*"Come to me, all you
who are weary and
burdened, and I will give
you rest."*

Matthew 11:28

QUAKEEVENT.COM

QUAKE
YOUTH EXCOURSELARNS THE GOSPEL



- 1 David Lemmon
- 2 Ridley Law
- 3 Jensen Lambert
- 4 Austin Choncek, Kayla Round
- 6 Wm. K. Olinger, Heather Hooks
- 7 Amy Repak, Emma Kirkpatrick
- 8 Mollie Bouch, Joshua Hutchison
- 9 Polly Long
- 10 Richard Kunkle, Jr.
- 12 Jane Neidig, Betsy Dempster, Samantha French, Rick John, Elizabeth Smoyer
- 14 Jay Livingston, Brendon Ignatz, Bridget Hilty
- 15 David Lindeman, Melissa Venesky
- 16 Chris Choncek, Steve Ignatz
- 18 Matilda Saloum, Connie Brosius
- 19 Patty Uplinger, Anthony Wolfe
- 20 Margie Arnette
- 21 Joan Lukehart
- 23 Todd Livingston, Grace Dear
- 24 Richard Laube, III
- 25 Jolene Ahlgrim, Joshua Arnette, Kenneth King
- 26 Kevin Helm
- 27 Chelsea Febinger
- 28 David Reed, Leroy Zacherl
- 29 Dana Heller, Blaik Howlett, Dina Zacherl
- 30 Clair Klingensmith

*We are born into and made for community.
When our relationships get severed,
there is a jump in anxiety.
That is why we need to go to Church,
To be part of the body of Christ.*

mojotxt

We have a New 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 September Church Offerings

	Sept.	Sept.	Year	Budget
<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>To-Date</u>
Current				
Operating	14,507	26,207	178,623	235,864
Benevolence	1,488	3,333	15,027	30,000
Capital				
Campaign	21,452	1,937	38,486	17,432
Current				
Account	Income	Expenses		Gain/-Loss
Current Month	14,507	22,222		—7,715
Year to Date	178,623	228,230		—49,608

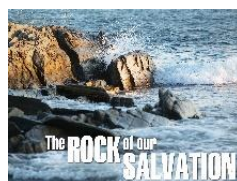
ATTENDANCE

Our September Worship Attendance

September	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
1 st Sunday Sept.	*(E) 54(L)	E(32) L(62)
2 nd Sunday Sept.	* (L)	66
3 rd Sunday Sept.	51(E) 70(L)	E(47) L(66)
4 th Sunday Sept.	43(E) 72(L)	E(51) L(47)
Sept. Average	119	92

Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday, November 12th and 19th.



Women's Bible Study

will return at the King's restaurant on **Thursday, November 9th at noon**. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



Thank You's for November 2023:

- ♥ To Mary Jane Dawson, Janice Smith, Ruth Ann Hankey and Julie Smith for helping with the October newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to Jill Wranich for your help cleaning up after youth groups!
- ♥ Thank you to Cassidy, Delaney and Marlee Smith, Robert John, Mollie, Emily and William Bouch, CJ Reeseman, & Jerah Wranich for your help setting up/ and or cleaning up Youth Group!
- ♥ Thank you to Jessica Bailey and Donna Livengood for your help with Youth Group Movie Night on October 15th!
- ♥ Thank you for the NUMEROUS people that donated candy and/or money for Trunk or Treat!!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who brought their vehicles, Help set up and clean up, and passed out treats at Trunk or Treat, detailed list next newsletter.
- ♥ Thank you to Amy Repak for the awesome Halloween decorations for our Children's Hour Halloween parties!
- ♥ 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 Alan and Betty Mitchell for the donations for Sunday school and Kitchen!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our children's and youth activities!
- ♥ 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!
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger, Blair Dawson, Dean Crooks and Gene Hughes for helping to train our new sexton, Colin Toy.
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger, Connie McMaster, Abby Klaar, Nancy Pierce, Gene Hughes, Karen Waugaman, Donna Livengood, The John Family, Blair and Mary Jane Dawson, and anyone else we may have forgotten, THANK YOU for helping to clean up St. John's, while we were without a sexton.
- ♥ To everyone who continues to support & donate to the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- ♥ To our Sunday School Teachers and subs Megan Rupp, Donna Livengood, Rick John, Wendy Hodak and Debbie Griffin.
- ♥ To Men's Breakfast Cooking Crew: Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Clair Roudebush, and Pastor Johnson.

- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth Ministries here at St. John's!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helps with the Fellowship Hours after worship!
- ♥ Thank you to Kyle Kirkpatrick for putting the finishing touches on the columbarium.
- ♥ Thank you to Blair Dawson and Dean Crooks for various plumbing projects.

Katie's Cupboard



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.



The **Kittanning Ministerial Association** is sponsoring a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** on Sunday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Kittanning with The Rev. Dayton Dixon of the First United Methodist Church speaking. All are welcome!

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."

Pastor's Sunday School Class:

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."

Women of the North American Lutheran Church Mid Northeast Mission District Fall Gathering

Saturday November 11th

9 am to 3 pm

Salem Lutheran Church

26 Clarion St.

Smicksburg, PA 16256

\$10 Registration

RSVP by October 28th to Lane Magera

At ismagera@gmail.com or 847-714-3876

November Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, November 4th 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.



**Annual Thrivent "Turkey"
Luncheon on Sunday,
November 12, 2023
following Worship.**

Annual "Turkey" luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, November 12th** following worship. The meal will consist of ham, noodles, stuffing, green beans, corn, applesauce and rolls. A free-will offering will be taken and all proceeds will go to the Armstrong County Community Action Agency for the purchase of Thanksgiving turkey dinners for those in need within our community. If you cannot come to the luncheon, but would like to participate by making a donation, please place your donation in the offering during worship. Because the Thrivent Action Team is sponsoring this dinner, every penny raised by the dinner will go to the Community Action Agency Turkey Fund. Thank you for your support!



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

NOVEMBER

November 5

Assisting Minister	Rebecca Swanson (E) Nancy Pierce (L)
Lector	Brendan Swanson (E) Keith Livengood (L)
Communion	John and Rebecca Swanson (E) Karen Waugaman, Nancy Pierce Susan Neal, Lori Young (L)
Acolytes	Mitchell Wranich (E) Colvin Adkins Landon Crissman Callie Adkins, Ella Fennel (L)
Welcome Team	Marve Gaiser (E) The Young Family (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich(E) Bill Bouch (L)

November 12

Assisting Ministers	Gene Hughes
Lectors	Roger Mechling
Communion	Charlie Bleakney, Sara Shafer, Debbie Bouch, Mollie Bouch
Welcome Team	Sharon Febinger
Acolytes	Stella and Anna Venesky, Emily and William Bouch
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

November 19

Assisting Ministers	Robert John(E) Charlie Bleakney(L)
Lectors	Marlee Smith Smith(E) Rose Montgomery(L)
Comm Assistants	Patty & Kyle Kirkpatrick(E) Lance and Christine Whiteman, Tabitha Bowser Keith Livengood(L)
Acolytes	Noelle Smoyer(E) Lucas and Camryn Bowser(L) Kendall Bailey, Quinn Kellner(L)
Welcome team	The Smoyer Family (E) Bailey & Jazwinski families(L)
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich(E) Keith Livengood(L)

November 26

Assisting Minister	Debbie Bouch
Lector	Colvin Adkins
Acolyte	Delaney Smith
Welcome team	Jack & Deb Griffin
Camera Operator	Robert John

*"On Thanksgiving Day we
acknowledge our dependence."*

—William Jennings Bryan

November

Altar Guild: Mary Jane Dawson

Money Counters: Tammy Fleegeer, Gene Hughes,

Ushers: Bill Olinger, Jarrod Olinger, Ryan Shafer, Roger Mechling

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."*



<div> November St. John's Lutheran Church 2023 </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	31	1 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Book Study 7:30 Senior Choir	2 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	3	4 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast
5 All Saints Sunday <small>White</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 6:30 Youth Group	6 7:00 Property	7	8 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Book Study 7:30 Senior Choir	9 9:30 Children's Hour 12:00 Womens Study at Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	10	11 Women of the NALC Fall Gathering 9:00 -3:00 Salem Lutheran, Smicksburg
12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost <small>Green</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:00 Thrivent Turkey Dinner 6:30 Youth Group	13 7:00 Council	14	15 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Book Study 7:30 Senior Choir	16 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	17	18
19 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <small>Green</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Worship at First Baptist	20	21 1:00 Newsletter mailing	22 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Book Study 7:30 Senior Choir	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 First Sunday in Advent <small>Blue</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 6:30 Youth Group	27 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	28	29 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Book Study 7:30 Senior Choir	30 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism		