
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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May 2023

Praying With Our Eyes Open

Bishop Selbo talks about "Praying with our eyes open." Often times our eyes are closed to those things around us and even right in front of our face.

Perhaps the first word of praying with our eyes open is one of gratitude. Thank you God that I can see! Thank you for all the senses. Thank you for food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day.

Thank you, O Lord, for the beauty and wonder of nature! For the miracle of turning brown and gray hillsides into green. For the lengthening of days. For the warming of spring. For green grass and spring flowers.

Thank you for the gift of faith, and family, and congregation. Keep us always steadfast in Your Word. For those who run the race of faith with us, and those who have gone before us. For the gift of the cross and the miracle and wonder of the empty tomb.

We thank you for the gift of this nation. Lead, guide and bless it. Where it is errant, correct it. Keep it faithful to You.

Open our eyes, O Lord that we might see those in need of our prayers. Open our hearts to those who need your love and care that we might minister to them in the precious name of Jesus.

Help us keep our eyes open to the miracles that surround us each and every day. Help us to keep our hearts open to those who need your love and care.

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson



Annual Spring Concert
Sunday, May 7th, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church
218 N. Jefferson St.

At 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.

The Senior & Junior Bell Choirs
and
the Senior & Children's Vocal Choirs
(under the direction of Rebecca Veith)

Mark your calendars...
you don't want to miss this!
The concert is free and open to the public,
so bring your family, friends and neighbors
and celebrate spring with us! Refreshments
to follow!

Table of Contents

Page 2	Electronic Giving, Council Highlights
Page 3	Children and Youth Opportunities
Page 4	Birthdays, Attendance, Finance
Page 5	Thank You's, Music Notes
Page 6	Church grounds workday, National Day of Prayer, Solid Rock Day Camp
Page 7	Worship Leaders & Comic
Page 8	Calendar



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.

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

Mark Your Calendars

May 7	Youth luncheon fundraiser
	Spring Concert
May 21	Youth Sunday
May 28	Pentecost/Confirmation
June 3	Spring Outside Clean-up day
June 4	Graduate Sunday
June 11	Over 80 Luncheon
June 26-30	Day Camp
July 10-14	NALC Camp
July 17-19	NALC Elementary Camp
August 9-11	NALC Convention



- Heard positively about the Heather Ruesch Youth Event.
- Heard that the coat collection on Palm Sunday was a success.
- Heard that there will be a property work day on June 3rd beginning at 8:00 am.
- Received thank you 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.
- National NALC Convocation in August 9-11, 2023 is in Oklahoma. We need 3 delegates. A bishop to be elected.

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

*Live your life so that
others may see Christ in you.*

Children and Youth



**Mother's Day
Special Craft Day
During Sunday School
May 14th at 9:45am**

Mark Your Calendars for June!

Vacation Bible School
Is June 12th – 15th 2023!



Kids Toddler -5th Grade!

Join us for Keepers of the Kingdom, Armor of God VBS!
Standing Strong in Today's battle for truth!

June 12th -15th 9am-Noon

Snack and Lunch included!

Online Sign up will be released on our Faith Kidz
Facebook page.

We will need decorators, volunteers, station leaders,
helpers and more. Please see Julie if you'd like to help.
Clearances required.

**North
American
Lutheran
Church
SOLID
ROCK
Day Camp**

We are hosting
our third annual
Solid Rock
Day Camp
June 26th 30th 2023
At St. John's Lutheran
Church, Kittanning
See Page 6 of the
newsletter for Details!

Youth Group Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser

**Concert Day
May 7, 2023,
After Worship**

Join us for a delicious
lunch, prepared by the
Youth Group, to raise
funds for all of our
activities! Thank you for
supporting our kids!

Julie will be contacting folks for donations.



**No Youth Group May 7th, due to concert.
No Youth Group May 14th, due to Mothers Day
No Youth Group May 28th, due to Memorial
Holiday.**

**YOUTH
Sunday**

Sunday May 21st

Pastor Johnson will be
asking
Youth to participate in
various parts of worship.

**Youth Group Summer Blast!
Water Games, weather permitting
Sunday May 21st**

6:30-8:00pm

**Planning Summer Service Opportunities
Camp Stuff, and More!**

**Youth Group 6th grade and Up, are
welcome to help decorate, set up, and help
during the week of VBS and Day Camp.**

NALC IN-TENTS SUMMER CAMPS:

July 10-14, Grades 7-12

July 17-19, Grades 4-6

Registration Coming Soon!

Women's Bible Study, will
continue in the Fall 2023!



- 1 Lisa George,
Haylee Young
- 2 Pastor Carl Johnson
- 3 Logan Bowser
- 4 Janice Smith,
Janessa Heller,
John Swanson
- 5 Erika Schweitzer, Maely Round
- 6 Lyndon Schall, Tonia Lockard
- 7 Jeff Debnar, Cheryl Mechling
- 8 Nancy Cerutti, Joyce Wolff
- 9 David Acerni, Michael Stitt
- 10 Robert Febinger, Jr, Mitchell Wranich
- 12 Patty Wonderling, Jillian Krauser, Margherita King
- 13 Deborah Adams
- 14 Wendy Hodak
- 15 Tim Olinger, Christopher Ignatz, Marianne Mentch,
Randy Shamberger
- 17 Edith Round, Caroline Black
- 18 Tim Gallaher, Rebecca Johnson, Kendall Bailey
- 20 Cindy Law
- 21 Gwen Dosch, Mark Helminack
- 22 Amy Thiry, Gwyndolyn Moser
- 23 Finn Heller
- 25 Hillary Schultze
- 28 Brian Crissman, Matilda Koeller
- 29 Tim Schall, Marc Young, Maya Slater
- 30 V. John Olinger, Chris Hooks



Our March Church Offerings

	Mar	Mar	Year	Budget
Offerings	Receipts	Budget	To-Date	To-Date
Current				
Operating	19,031	26,207	56,481	78,621
Benevolence	1,396	3,333	5,313	10,000
Capital				
Campaign	2,263	1,937	6,218	5,811

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/-Loss
Current Month	19,031	29,130	-10,099
Year to Date	56,481	83,073	-26,592

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

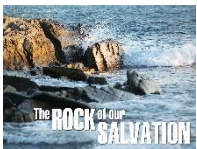
Let's be faithful in our Easter generosity. This year presents a very great challenge for each and every one of us! Please give prayerful consideration to increasing your giving to St. John's that we might serve our resurrected Savior in plenty, rather than in want. Thank you for your continued support!

Women's Bible Study



will be held at King's restaurant on Thursday, May 11th at noon. Any questions, please contact Rose

Montgomery rosetrix_38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



Rock of our Salvation Worship

Sunday, May 14th



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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

Erik Paul Sapp

ATTENDANCE

Our March Worship Attendance

March	2022	2023
1 st Sunday in Mar	138	104
2 nd Sunday in Mar	41(E) 65(L)	32(E) 76(L)
3 rd Sunday in Mar	115	38(E) 83(L)
4 th Sunday in Mar	43(E) 52(L)	*

Average for March	113	111
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* Not available

*Be Humble
Be Grateful
Be Generous*



Thank You's for April 2023:

- ♥ Thank you to Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty Mitchell & Alan Mitchell, Linda Charley & Janice Smith for helping with the April newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- ♥ Thank you for the awesome help with the Men's banquet: Betty & Alan Mitchell, Deb Griffin, Callie Adkins, Robert, Rick & Juanita John, Kim Barnes, Toni Smail, Connie McMaster, Deb, Bill, Mollie & Emily Bouch, Mona Bouch & Linda Howlett and those who provided amazing pies: Mary Jane Dawson, Susan Mentch, Nancy Johnson, Kim Barnes, Juanita Bish, Toni Smail, Linda Howlett, Rose Debnar, Mona Bouch, Deb Bouch & Michelle Kozlowski.
- ♥ Thank you to our kitchen fairies!
- ♥ Thank you to Amber & Kylie Zurn for sorting and organizing donations to Katie's cupboard.
- ♥ Thank you to Nick Wranich, Steve Repak and Pastor Johnson for hanging the shroud on the cross.
- ♥ Thank you to the palm strippers: Karen Waugaman, Dean Crooks, Gene Hughes, Marve Gaiser, Bill Bouch, Rebecca Veith & Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to the Maundy Thursday altar strippers: Blair Dawson, Dean Crooks, Nick Wranich, Steve Repak, Mark Hankey & Brock Hodak.
- ♥ Thank you to Gene Hughes, Karen Waugaman, Rebecca Veith, Steve Repak, Dean Crooks, Frank Baker, Marve Gaiser, Pastor Neal and Susan, Christian, Krista & Ella Fennell, Mary Jane Dawson, Bill, Deb, Mollie & William Bouch, Mona Bouch and Pastor Johnson for decorating the sanctuary.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter brunch: Julie Smith, Jack & Deb Griffin, Jill & Nick Wranich.
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten men's breakfasts: Frank Baker, Clair Roudebush, Steve Repak, Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Rob McCluskey, Dean Crooks & Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks, Colvin & Callie Adkins & Pastor Johnson for decorating the outside cross.
- ♥ Thank you to Blair Dawson & Steve Repak for operating the lighting during worship.
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger for leading the kitchen all week and cooking our lasagna dinner and more!
- ♥ Thank you to Mary Jane and Blair for helping set up and helping in the kitchen.
- ♥ Thank you to Sue Bain for helping with our Lasagna dinner.
- ♥ Thank you to Wendy Hodak for donating cupcakes and helping in the kitchen!
- ♥ Thank you Corinna Stonage for the pie. RLCM for the salad and bread and cookies!

- ♥ Thank you to Susan Mentch for the delicious lasagna donated for our kids.
- ♥ Thank you to Rick and Juanita John, Nick and Jill Wranich, Deb and Bill Bouch, Melissa Venesky, Krista Fennell, Christy Duncan, Jamie and Jay Smoyer, Pastor Matthew Vatalare, Pastor Johnson for helping with the event with Heather Reusch.
- ♥ Thank you to the Bouch kids, Wranich kids and Smith kids for helping set up as well!
- ♥ Thank you to the praise band, Stella Venesky, Brendan Swanson, Jerah Wranich, Sharon Smith, and The Smith family & Matt Smith for setting up lights and sound for Friday's event.
- ♥ To ANYONE who I am missing... THANK YOU!!!!
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger and Donna Livengood for running our Kids Movie Night!
- ♥ Thank you to the Praise Band for leading worship on the 16th.
- ♥ Thank you to all who made soup for our Youth Group Fundraiser! Patty Kirkpatrick, Amber Zurn, Rose Debnar, Cheryl Mechling, Jamie Smoyer, Sharon Febinger, Rick John, Linda Charley, Sharon Smith, Susan Mentch, and Tammy Fleeger.
- ♥ Thank you to our Soup Sellers, Jessica and Kendall Bailey, Rick and Robert John, Amber and Kylie Zurn, The Smoyers, The Smiths and Chris Lettrich.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth Ministries at St. John's.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Thanks to our very talented musicians Dan Minnich, Frank Baker, Brendan Swanson, Dennis Cramer & Nick Wranich for providing instrumental music on Easter Sunday!

The Senior Handbell Choir will hold a special concert rehearsal on Sunday, May 7th immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The Senior Choir will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 7th to warm up for the Spring concert followed by the New Bells at 6:00 p.m. and the Junior Choir at 6:15 p.m. No choir rehearsals on Wednesday, May 10th – enjoy a well deserved evening off!

Rebecca Veith
Director of Music

*What does the soul long for?
Our hearts are restless until
they rest in thee, O Lord.*



Attention Gardeners and Worker Bees



We need your help! We are having a workday to "tidy-up" flower beds and landscaping around the church grounds.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please bring work gloves and a wheelbarrow, etc.

We could use volunteers to divide & conquer chores...weeding, trimming shrubs & mulching.

Please contact Sharon Febinger @ 724-543-2413 or text 724-859-5649. Thank you!



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4, 2023

@ 7:00 p.m.

Kittanning Riverfront Amphitheater.

*What the world and our nation most need now
is our prayers!*

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



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.

SOLID ROCK DAY CAMP DETAILS!

June 26-30, 2023

Join us for a week of Fun, Games, Crafts, Bible-Centered Lessons,

Nature Discovery, a special field trip and More!

Led by a great Group of students from the Carolina's Mission District

Who's invited: All Kids entering 1st through 5th grade

When: June 26-June 30

Time: M-F 9am-3pm

Lunch: FREE lunch included for all kids

Cost: Actual rate is \$80 per camper, however, St. John's Kittanning & Resurrection Lutheran Cooperative Ministry is underwriting

some of the cost per camper.

Your Rate: Non-Member \$80

Member of NALC Congregations: \$25

Sibling discount of \$15/ registration

Registration is Limited to 35 students

**Registration Link will be on our Faith Kidz fb Page
(*see Julie smith if you need added to fb page*)**

Please Let Julie Smith or church office know if

YOUR child would like to attend!

We will email you other registration form and medical forms needed, or fill out on first day.

If you have ANY questions/concerns,
please call Julie Smith at St. John's
at 724-548-2051



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. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Smith.

MAY**May 7**

Assisting Minister	Deb Bouch
Lector	Emily Bouch
Comm Assistants	Karen Waugaman, Susan Neal
	Nancy Pierce, Mollie Bouch
Acolytes	Emma Nemchek, Quinn Kellner
	Camryn & Lucas Bowser
Welcome Team	Deb & Jack Griffin
Camera Operator	TBA

May 14

Assisting Ministers	Rebecca Swanson(E)
	Karen Waugaman(L)
Lectors	Jerah Wranich(E)
	Nancy Pierce(L)
Comm Assistants	Patty & Kyle Kirkpatrick(E)
Acolytes	Mitchell Wranich(E)
	Kendall Bailey(L)
Welcome Teams	Venesky family(E)
	Whiteman family(L)
Camera Operators	TBA
	TBA

May 21 Youth Sunday

Assisting Minister	TBA
Lector	TBA
Comm Assistants	TBA
Acolytes	TBA
Welcome Team	TBA
Camera Operator	TBA

May 28 Pentecost & Confirmation

Assisting Minister	Nancy Pierce
Lector	Confirmands
Comm Assistants	Confirmands
Acolyte	William Bouch
Welcome Team	Bouch family
Camera Operator	TBA

*Alleluia, Christ is Risen.
He is Risen Indeed.
Alleluia!*

MAY**Altar Guild:** Megan Rupp, Lori Young**Money Counters:** Brett Taylor, Dean Crooks, Richard Thorell**Ushers:** Dean Crooks, Brett and Megan Taylor, Blair Dawson**Children's Hour:**

Children's Hour is every Wednesday
from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
Last class on May 18th!

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."



"Mom — you deserve a raise for raising me."

<div> <div>May</div> <div>St. John's Lutheran Church</div> <div>2023</div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 Property	2	3 9:30 Children's Hour	4 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism 7:00 National Day of Prayer - Amphitheater	5	6
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter White 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:00 Senior handbell choir rehearsal 12:00 Youth group lasagna fundraiser 5:00 Senior Choir rehearsal 6:00 New Bells rehearsal 6:15 Junior Choir rehearsal 7:00 Spring Concert	8 7:00 Council	9	10 No Choir	11 9:30 Children's hour field trip 12:00 Women's bible study @ Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	12	13
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter White 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship No Youth	15 7:00 Mutual Ministry	16	17 9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	18 9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Newsletter mlg 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	19	20
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter White Youth Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 6:30 Youth Group	22 7:00 Worship/Music	23	24 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	25	26	27
28 Pentecost/Confirmation Red 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30				