

St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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

Carl A. Johnson, Pastor, home: 724-548-5512 Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Office: 724-548-2051, and 724-543-4301

e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

June 2026



Why I Made My Children Go to Church

Father's Day is coming up and my favorite quote is "Two things are required to be a good father: to bring your children to church and to love their mother."

We assume too much.

We want our children to be proficient in reading and math. We want them to be proficient or excel at sports. A well rounded individual is mature in mind, body AND Spirit. Many parents these days assume their children will magically pick up a spirituality based in Christ without ever going to church or teaching them the ways of God.

Christianity teaches us how to live. If you don't know Jesus then you don't know how to live. You don't know what life is all about. If you need evidence of this fact just look at the world we live in. As our culture has moved away from going to church and away from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it has descended into darkness.

Christianity teaches us that we are not the center of the universe, (and if we think we are then we are headed for some major disappointments).

Christianity teaches us that we need a savior.

Only Jesus teaches us how to forgive.

Only Jesus teaches us how to show mercy.

Only Jesus shows us.

Only Jesus shows us what true love is all about.

Only Jesus shows us that true joy can only be found in serving others.

Jesus teaches us what is fleeting and fading and what really matters in life, (what is permanent).

Only Jesus gives Eternal Life.

See you in Worship. Bring your children to worship,

Pastor Johnson

*St. John's Congregation is honoring their
over 80 members!*

*You are invited to enjoy a luncheon
after 11:00 a.m. worship
Sunday, June 28, 2026*

in the Social Hall

Please respond to the church office

by June 5, 2026.

724-548-2051



*Beginning June 21st we will hold
two Sunday morning worship
services; 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
There is no reason to miss praising
our Lord!*

Table of Contents

Page 2	Council Highlights, Electronic Giving
Page 3	Children and Youth Opportunities
Page 4	Birthdays, Attendance, Finance
Page 5	Thank You's
Page 6	Women's Bible Study, Men's Breakfast
Page 7	Altar Guild Help, Music Notes, Landscaping
Page 8	Youth Sunday, Katie's Cupboard
Page 9	Worship Leaders & Comic
Page 10	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.

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."



June 6	7:30am Work day Landscaping
June 28	Over 80 Banquet
July 7-10	BYLD
July 13-17	NALC Youth Camp
July 20-22	NALC- Elementary Camp
Aug 4-6	VBS – Barnyard Carnival
Oct 11	Harvest Home/Generosity Sunday

Is there a more precious substance on the face of the earth than the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior?



- Approved Hadley Kane Heller and Kherington Ann Marie Hilty for confirmation contingent on their successful completion of their work.
- Hired Robert John as sexton through August.
- Authorized Sharon Febinger and Kyle Kirkpatrick to be in charge of landscaping. Heard that June 6th is the property work day.
- Heard that we received thank you from Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Water Missions, Lutheran Bible Translators (for the Ethiopian Seminary), Kittanning Library, 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:

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

"[Christ] wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate and teachable, as good children are; but he also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim."

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Kids and Youth June 2026



SPARK will begin again during the 2026/2027

School Year.

MEGA thanks to all of our Spark Volunteers throughout the year!

Registration is OPEN online for IN-TENTS Camp 2026!

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!

SAVE THE DATE!

IN-TENTS

LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP

.....

YOUTH: JULY 13-17, 2026
ELEMENTARY: JULY 20-22, 2026
.....

ACTIVITIES:

- Worship
- Swimming
- Fellowship
- Games
- Learning
- Great food
- Friends
- Flight 93 Memorial

Speakers: Heather & Pastor Matt Ruesch

LAST 2026 Youth Group Picnic @ Crooked Creek

Tues. June 16th 11am -2pm

Pavillion TBA, as available

Lunch, Hiking, Games, Fun!

Rsvp to Julie

Youth Group

Last Youth Group: Fun Day! Crooked Creek
Tuesday June 16th: 11am-2pm
Pavillion, TBA, as available. Lunch, Hike, Games, Fun!

VBS help: Beginning in June and July, VBS Decorating, VBS Help during week of Aug .4-6.

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP! Grades 7-12, July 14-16





- 1 Bill McMaster, Jr., Elizabeth Dixon
- 2 Michael Ulisky, Isaiah Zacherl
- 3 Kristie Cooper, Emily Peck
- Ghering, Keith Livengood, Leota Minnich, Savannah Purvis
- 4 Betsy Schall, Andrew Bowser
- 6 Martin Erdley
- 7 Ryker John
- 8 Christopher Moorhead
- 9 Betsy Furlong, Frances Kirby, Jordain Bowser, Tyler Bowser
- 12 Tonya Zimmerman Kilgore, Ryan Shafer
- 13 Michael Livingston
- 14 Karen Waugaman, Kathy Peck, Jarrod Olinger, Olivia Erdley, Hilma Wingard
- 15 Robert Bleakney, Mike Crissman
- 16 Jessica Smith, Camryn Bowser
- 17 Eric Starr
- 21 Karen Ansell, Jackson Lager
- 24 Pat Bush-Burkett, Michael McDermott, Chase Ansell, Tyler Choncek, Jacob Rupp
- 25 Jessica Held, Lance Whiteman
- 26 William Olinger, Angelo Law
- 27 Richard Round, Evan Cravener
- 28 Cheryl Gariglio, Liam Alese
- 29 Jerry Houser, Derek Kirby, Jr.
- 30 Toni Smail, Jason Slea



Our April Church Offerings

	Apr	Apr	Year	Budget
Offerings	Receipts	Budget	To-Date	To-Date
Current				
Operating	26,216	27,974	98,203	111,895
Benevolence	2,385	3,333	8,792	13,333
Capital				
Campaign	1,812	1,655	6,791	6,620

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	26,216	25,283	934
Year to Date	98,203	106,455	-8,252

Summer Blessings -- Summer Generosity

May you enjoy a safe summer season as you travel, enjoy the outdoors, and give God thanks for your many blessings.

Remembering to give thanks, remember also how your tithes and offerings through the summer help St. John Lutheran Church continue to be a blessing as we serve others in their hurts and hopes with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Together in mission and ministry,
Your Stewardship Team

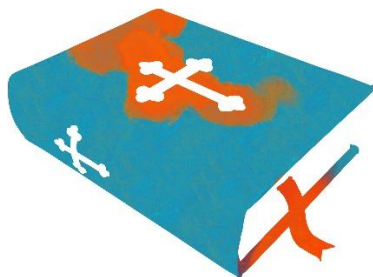


ATTENDANCE

Our April Worship Attendance

April	2025	2026
1 st Sunday in Apr	E(49) L (96)	181
2 nd Sunday in Apr	105	82
3 rd Sunday in Apr	210	E(44) L (66)
4 th Sunday in Apr	84	83
5 th Sunday in Apr	n/a	n/a
Average for April	136	114

*All that I am
and all that I have
is a gift from God.*



I Am the Bible

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library.
I am always — and above all — the truth.
To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.
To those who sit in darkness, I am glorious light.
To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.
To those who have lost their way, I am a safe guide.
To those who are sick in sin, I offer healing, strength and forgiveness.
To the discouraged, I bring a glad message of hope.
To those distressed and tossed by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.
To all who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.
I am the Bible.



Thank You's for June 2026:

- ♥ Thank you to Linda Charley, Mary Jane Dawson, Ruth Ann Hankey, Susan Neal, Betty Mitchell, Janice Smith for assembling and mailing the May newsletter.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's with donations.
- ♥ Thanks to Amber, Gary and Kylie Zurn for sorting/boxing and preparing the Katies storage before the floor cleaning.
- ♥ Thanks to Gary Zurn for repairing the doors to Katie's Cupboard.
- ♥ Thank you to the worship and music committee and all who made delicious cookies, set up and served refreshments and cleaned up for the Spring concert.
- ♥ Thank you to Rebecca Veith, Charlie Bleakney, Linda Charley, and Karen Waugaman for polishing the bells.
- ♥ Thank you to Sharon Febinger for planting the beautiful flowers in the courtyard and to Delaney Smith for helping.
- ♥ Thank you to all of our May Spark Helpers! Tammy Fleeger, Sue Bain, Emily Bouch & Elijah Stanko, Marlee Smith, Delaney Smith, Nancy Johnson, Amy Repak, Nicholas Furguiele, and Darlene Farah!
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with Fellowship Hours following worship.
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger, Blair & Mary Jane Dawson, Bob Febinger, and Scott Stirling for prepping the Social Hall for cleaning.
- ♥ Thanks to those who put the Social Hall back in order: Rich Farah, Peter Hegseth, Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson, Ken Burckett, Scott Stirling, and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thanks to the Men's Breakfast Cooking Crew: Rich Farah, Peter Hegseth, Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson, Ken Burckett, Scott Stirling, and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Mr Jeff Choncek and the Armstrong Jr/Sr High students for providing such an amazing amount of food to Katie's Cupboard this year!
- ♥ To Karen Waugaman for changing our Hymn Board every Sunday.
- ♥ Thank you, Matt Smith, for your sound equipment & set up for Youth Sunday, and praise band!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually helps clean our building, help with set up and clean-up of events, & who support the mission & ministry for Christ, at St. John's!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth ministry, activities, camps and more! YOU are appreciated!

- ♥ Thank you to all the Youth who participated in Youth Sunday. You are all amazing and talented! What a blessing all of you are to St. John's! **See list on Pg 8.**
- ♥ Thank you to Rebecca Veith & Gene Hughes for helping tremendously on Youth Sunday!
- ♥ Thank you to Cassidy Smith and Angela Clever for your amazing help with our Children's Hour End of the Year parties!
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger for the awesome gifts for our grads!
- ♥ Thank you to all of our acolytes, new and old, who have filled in during the year, have been flexible, and available to share your time to serve Jesus at worship!
- ♥ Our church family "rose to the occasion again"! The cooking under duress program was awesome!
 - ♥ Social hour and food was AWESOME!
 - ♥ The number count is still pending for the kits made, will keep everyone updated thru the bulletin & newsletter.
- ♥ Thanks to Katie Wolfe & Cindy McShane – 62nd PA Volunteer Infantry Living History Family, Betty & Alan Mitchell, Lena McLaughlin, Kyle Kirkpatrick & Scott Hetrick, Mark Hankey, Rose Montgomery, Bouch family and Eli Stanko, Bob Taylor, Rich Farah, Mitch Wranich, Robert John, Connie McMaster, Julie Smith, Mary Jane Dawson, Gene Hughes, Pastor Johnson, Tammy Fleeger.
- ♥ Thank you to Kyle Kirkpatrick for planning and cooking the women's banquet.

*No problem is too big
for God.*

Handling grief

When a Southern Christian woman became a widow, several people asked what she was going to do. She always answered by saying, "I'm going to do Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philippians 4:4-7." Both passages provide wonderful doses of strength and encouragement. (If you aren't familiar with the verses, look them up to see for yourself.) When we completely trust in God for guidance and peace, he not only sees us through difficult times but allows us to rejoice rather than worry.

*"Live in the world as if only God
and your soul were in it; then your
heart will never be made captive by
any earthly thing."*

—John of the Cross



We would LOVE to see **YOU** in person.
 However, if you are away on vacation or need
 to watch from elsewhere:
We ARE here for you !



Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast

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>

**Don't forget to check out your Church Web
 Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org**

Here you will find: Bulletins,
 Newsletters, Morning Prayers,
 Upcoming events and program
 information, Youth Events including
 photos from the recent QUAKE trip,
 and more.

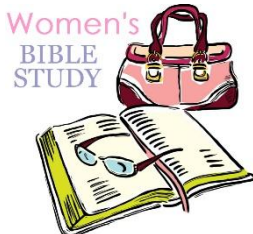


When on vacation

When on vacation, be with us
 in spirit.
 The rest of the summer, be
 with us in person.

Women's Bible Study

... will return at the King's
 restaurant on **Tuesday, June 9th**
at noon. Any questions, please
 contact Cheryl Mechling at
rock92@comcast.net . All are
 welcome!



*"Sin cannot be undone,
 only forgiven."*

—Igor Stravinsky



Fellowship Hour

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 & visitors of St.
 John's. If you would like to help host a fellowship
 hour, please call the office or see Pastor Johnson.

*Two things are required to be a
 good father: to bring your
 children to church
 and to love their mother.*



Men's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, June 13th 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.

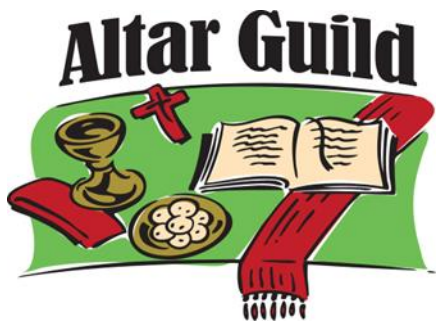
A father asked his 7-year-old son to say the
 mealtime prayer. "All right," the boy said. "Let's
 pray."

When every head was bowed, the boy prayed,
 "Lord, we thank you for the pancakes we're going
 to eat tonight. Amen."

"Jimmy," his mother said. "I think you should know
 we're having chicken, not pancakes, tonight."
 "I know," Jimmy answered. "I just wanted to see if
 God was paying attention."

*"May you be blessed forever,
 Lord, for being constant and
 unchanging, amidst all the
 changes of the world."*

—St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)



Needed for Altar Care:

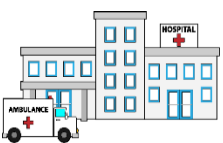
We are still looking for volunteers to help with every Sunday, can you serve?

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us— when we hold the Bible in our hands it is like holding baby Jesus Himself!"



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.



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.



Thank you to Mark Hankey and Bud Wolfe for building the handrail off the altar.

It is greatly appreciated!



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 6, 2026 7:30 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**



Music Ministry CHURCH MUSIC NOTES

Thanks to the Choirs, musicians, soloists, and others who helped to make the spring concert a super evening!! We appreciate your commitment and continued support of the music ministry at St. John's.

Just a reminder for singers, please bring in your music for filing. THANK YOU!

We are also looking for vocalists and musicians to provide special music during the summer months; can you help?

Rebecca Veith
Organist/Director of Music



**Katie's Cupboard
Summer Break Stock-
Up Challenge
Feed Kids & Promote Play!**

BREAKFAST

Cereal, instant oatmeal single pkg breakfast bars, bagels.

LUNCH /DINNER

*Shelf stable microwaveable dinners, tuna/hamburger helper, soups, beanie weenies, SpaghettiOs's, canned ravioli, peanut butter, nut butters, jelly, Vienna sausages, ramen noodle cups, pizza sauce, shelf stable parmesan & easy mac cups.

HEALTHY

Fresh fruit: apples, clementines, bananas, peaches, plums, fresh veggies, fruit cups, raisins, craisins, banana chips, nuts, sunflower & pumpkin seeds, fiber one bars, veggie straws, trail mix no M&Ms, applesauce, dehydrated veggie chips, bottled water, Gatorade & whole grain fig newtons.

SNACKS

Capri sun/ juice boxes, popcorn, pop, otter pops that can be frozen, pretzels, granola bars, vanilla wafers, pudding cups, goldfish, Cheez-its, peanut butter crackers, beef jerky, chips & salsa, fruit snacks, & pop-tarts.

SUMMER SUPPLIES

Sunscreen, first aid ointment, Band-Aids, bug spray toothpaste/toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products

FUN

Bubbles, squirt guns, sidewalk chalk/paint, Old maid & Uno games, frisbee, candy necklaces, jump ropes, outdoor toys, paper & crayons.

Thank you for your support!



**Thanks to all the Youth who led
our worship service at 11:00 a.m.
on Sunday, May 17th**

- Assisting Minister Colvin Adkins, Mitchell Wranich
- Sermon Emily Bouch, Marlee Smith
- Children's Sermon Jerah Wranich
- Lectors Noelle Smoyer, Elizabeth Smoyer
- Avía Clever Ella Fennell, Anna Venesky
- Comm Assistants Brody Hodak, Bill Bouch
- Stella Venesky, Gracie Hodak
- Acolytes Gracie Hodak, Brody Hodak,
- Mitchell Wranich, Bill Bouch
- Welcome Team: Kherington Hilty, Vaila Clever
- Praise Band:** **Guitar:** Stella Venesky
- Piano:** Marlee Smith
- Bass:** Anna Venesky
- Vocals: Ella Fennell, Marlee Smith
- Jerah Wranich
- Special Music: Emily Bouch, Anna Venesky
- Ella Fennell

A special thank you to Gene Hughes for training our youth for Youth Sunday and always instructing our acolytes each week!

A special thank you to Matthew Smith for running and setting up praise band sound equipment.



**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 or serving as desired.





JUNE

Altar Guild:

Early: Connie Mc Master, Karen Waugaman
Late: TBD

Money Counters: Patty Kirkpatrick, Bill Bouch, Richard Farah

Ushers: Mark Hankey, Dean Crooks, Ed Walker, & Kraig Walker



Children's Hour:

See you in the Fall!

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

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



June 7

Assisting Minister	Charlie Bleakney
Lector	Robert John
Comm Assistants	Susan Barto, Sara Shafer
	Sophia & Elijah Holt
Acolytes	Camryn Bowser
Welcome Team	The Shafers
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich

June 14

Assisting Ministers	Lance Whiteman
Lectors	Linda Charley
Acolytes	Bill Bouch
Welcome Team	Griffins & Adkins Families
Camera Operators	Keith Livengood

June 21

Assisting Ministers	Karen Waugaman (E)
	Kay Thorell (L)
Lectors	Melissa Venesky (E)
	Colvin Adkins (L)
Comm Assistants	Amber Zurn & Gracie Hodak (E)
	Charlie Bleakney & Karina Blose (L)
Acolytes	TBD (E)
	Colvin Adkins (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E)
	Keith Livengood (L)

June 28

Assisting Ministers	Nancy Pierce (E)
	Deb Bouch (L)
Lectors	Becky Swanson (E)
	Emily Bouch (L)
Comm Assistants	John & Becky Swanson (E)
Acolytes	TBD (E)
	Callie Adkins (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E)
	Keith Livengood (L)

I CAN'T.

BUT I KNOW
A GUY.

June			St. John's Lutheran Church				2026	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
31 Holy Trinity white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	1	2	3 6:30 PJ's Bible Study	4	5	6 Grounds Workday 7:30 a.m. – Noon		
7 2 nd Sunday after of Pentecost Green 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	8 7:00 Council	9 12p Women's Bible Study King's Restaurant	10 6:30 PJ's Bible Study	11	12	13 8:00 am Men's Breakfast		
14 3 rd Sunday after of Pentecost Green 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship:	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21 4 th Sunday after of Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship: Communion 11:00 Worship: Communion	22	23	24 6:30 PJ's Bible Study	25 1:00 Newsletter mailing	26	27		
28 5 th Sunday after of Pentecost Green 8:30 Worship - Communion 11:00 Worship 12:00 Over 80 Luncheon	29	30						