

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

April 2026



I was on spiritual retreat. Our study was on prayer. Our presenter looked at us and said, "You all pray like bunch of three-year-olds!" I wanted to be offended. I found myself flattered. He explained that we all bring our list to God—just like three-year-olds.

One of my favorite events of the year is the National Day of Prayer. About a dozen pastors gather in the park to pray. I am amazed at the eloquence of some, the Spirited prayer of others. Each pastor prays in unique and profound ways. I sit in awe of my peers—me and my three-year-old self.

I wish I could be more eloquent. I wish I could be more fervent...more, more, more. But I am me. The devil is always trying to convince us that our prayers are not good enough.

But we are the children of God. *Spending time with our Heavenly Father is the point of prayer.* We do not get graded on form or even content. It's a matter of relationship; being together.

St. Paul bids us to pray without ceasing. Three-year-olds pray with boldness not worrying about if the prayer is acceptable to their loving Heavenly Father.

May we all pray with the confidence of a three-year-old!

See you in Sunday School and Worship,

Pastor Johnson



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 29: Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms 11:00 AM
The Passion According to St. Matthew

March 31: Healing Service

Special Communion Service 7:00 PM

April 2: Maundy Thursday

Special Communion Service 7:00 PM

April 3: Good Friday

Youth Group Easter Egg Stuffing 10:00 AM

Donations of candy appreciated!

KMA Community Good Friday Service

St. John's Noon to 1:00 PM

Tenebrae Service 7:00 PM

A service of light and darkness

April 4: Holy Saturday

Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for the Children

12:00PM -1:00PM

Retelling the Easter Story

Nursery to 5th Grade

April 5: Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Celebration 11:00 AM

Festival Communion Service with Brass Ensemble

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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."



- The Regular March Council meeting was canceled in order to allow time for study, worship, and prayer.

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

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

Mark Your Calendars

April 5	Easter
May 3	Spring Concert
May 17	Youth Sunday
May 17	Women's Banquet
May 24	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
May 31	Grad Sunday
June 6	Landscaping Work Day
June 28	Over 80 Banquet
July 13-18	NALC Youth Camp
July 20-22	NALC- Elementary Camp
Sept. 13	Rally Day



**Kids and Youth
April 2026**

April Kids Stuff:
Saturday April 4th: Egg Hunt 12-1pm
Tuesday April 14th : SPARK!



SPARK
IGNITING FAITH, EQUIPPING KIDS

Resurrection Celebration!
AT St. Johns Kittanning
April 14th 2026
6:15-7:30pm
Dinner, Bible Story,
Exciting, faith building
interactive stations with games,
crafts and activities!
Preschool-6th Grade
COST: FREE!
Parents! Stay and hang out,
relax and rest, or run some errands!
Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321
for weather updates,
announcements and reminders
NEW TO SPARK??
REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT
www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning

April Student Stuff:
Holy Week!
Wednesday April 1st: Student Bible Study, Ispirare! 1:00 pm
Friday April 3rd: Youth Group Hiding Easter Eggs, 10am, Breakfast included!
Saturday April 4th: Help with EGG Hunt 11:30am-1:00pm
Sunday April 5th: HAPPY EASTER!
Tuesday April 14th: Help w Spark 6:15-7:30pm
Saturday April 18th: Bible Study @ Ispirare 10am
Sunday April 26th: Youth Group after church, walk to Dunkin, weather permitting.



Student Sunday Walk in the Park after 11am church til 1:15pm Sunday April 26th Weather permitting, Walk to Dunkin & Park



- ♥ Thank you to, Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Charley and Susan Neal for helping with the March newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks and Blair Dawson for working on the entry door.
- ♥ Thank you to the Praise Band for always sharing your time and talents to serve at worship, Ella Fennell, The Smiths, Brendan Swanson, The Veneskys, Jerah Wranich.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who came to our March movie outing!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped with Spark! Tammy Fleeger, Rich and Darlene Farah, Emily Bouch, Elijah Stanko and Nicholas Furguiele!
- ♥ Thank you to Sharon Febinger for the cute decorations on the 2nd floor!
- ♥ Thank you to Angela Clever for driving Catechism kids!
- ♥ Thank you to Egg Hiding Folks: WILL BE IN NEXT NEWSLETTER.
- ♥ Thank you to Egg Hunt Helpers: WILL BE IN NEXT NEWSLETTER.
- ♥ Thank you to Tabitha, Randy, Lucas, Camryn and the CPR FOLKS for providing training on March 14th.
- ♥ Thank you to those who helped with the Men's Banquet:
Set-up/Serve/Clean/Pies: Tammy Fleeger, The Bouch Family, Karen Waugaman, Karina Blose, Chaunie Wright, Rebecca Veith, Erica & Emma Kirkpatrick, Scott Stirling, Darlene Farah, Debbie Griffin, Cindy Geidel, Mary Jane Dawson, Michelle Kozlosky, Lynda Howlett, Sandy Duncan, Debbie Buoch, Connie McMaster, Susan Barto, Susan Neal, Mona Bouch
Special Food: Cindy Geidel: Meat Sticks; Scott Stirling: Wild Boar Bacon; The Bouch's: Deer bologna & Hot sticks; Steve Repak & Pastor: Salmon, Deer bologna.
- ♥ Thank you To Frank Baker, Scott Stirling, Ken Burkett, Dean Crooks, David Lindeman, Clair Roudebush, Keith Livengood, Pastor Johnson, for cooking, cleaning up after and leading the Men's Breakfast.

Join us for
Easter Service



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 YouTube 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.



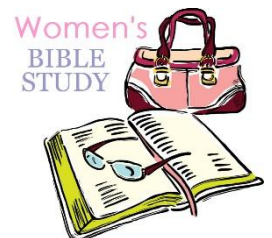
Lenten Men's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, April 4th at 8:00 a.m.



The men of St. John's will be meeting Saturday mornings 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, April 14th at noon**. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!





- 2 Sandy Hellam, Chase Steiner
- 3 Joshua Olinger, Landon Kirkpatrick
- 4 Avia B. Clever
- 5 Carol Pfeister, Kay Thorell
- 6 Brayden Black
- 7 Chris McDermott, Ann Lash, Rhodetta Meyer
- 8 Ayla Ansell
- 9 Matthew Lasher, Lisa Carmona, Hannah Moore, Sue Neal
- 10 Ethan Febinger
- 13 Amy Crawford, Elana Staschak
- 14 Parker Heller
- 15 Carol Boarts, Jeannine Debnar, Bruce Gray, David Wingard
- 16 Helen Boarts
- 17 Maria Recupero, Brandon Choncek, Brendan Smith Connor Zacherl
- 18 Gloria Sgro, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Lea Sharrer
- 19 Nathan Lasher, Josee Gillespie
- 21 Sara Dosch, Link Black
- 22 Scott Beck, Madeline Baillie, Brody Hodak, Sophia Whiteman
- 23 Gabrielle Cravener, Stella Venesky
- 24 Lisa Stitt, Evelyn McKelvey
- 26 Susan Blaney
- 27 Jim Stitt, Lucas Heller, Wilbur Stitt
- 28 Greta Bennett
- 30 Allison Ignatz

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



Our February Church Offerings

Offerings	Feb Receipts	Feb Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current				
Operating	19,817	27,974	42,803	55,947
Benevolence	1,895	3,333	4,497	6,667
Capital				
Campaign	1,750	1,655	3,164	3,310

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	19,817	27,376	-7,559
Year to Date	42,803	52,015	-9,212

God's generosity is both perfect and complete in every way. You can't outgive God.



ATTENDANCE

Our February Worship Attendance

February	2025	2026
1 st Sunday in Feb	44 (E) 63 (L)	89
2 nd Sunday in Feb	87	70
3 rd Sunday in Feb	44 (E) 74 (L)	38 (E) 83 (L)
4 th Sunday in Feb	122	80
ASH WEDNESDAY		89
February Average	109	90

Trustworthy stewards

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home.

"We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them." —Albert Schweitzer



We have a 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.



Annual Spring Concert
Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church
218 N. Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA

At 7:00 p.m.

The Senior Bell Choir &
The Senior Vocal Choirs

under the direction of Rebecca Veith

The concert is free and open to the public,

We welcome your family, friends & neighbors.

Come and celebrate spring with us!

There is a time of fellowship following in the social hall.



✓ The Brass Ensemble will meet at 10:00 am on April 5th to warm up for Easter Worship.

We have begun rehearsals for the Spring Concert and looking for people who love to sing to join us. **Hey any guys out there, can you please help?** We are including a variety of music for the upcoming 250th celebration of our country's birth.

Rebecca Veith

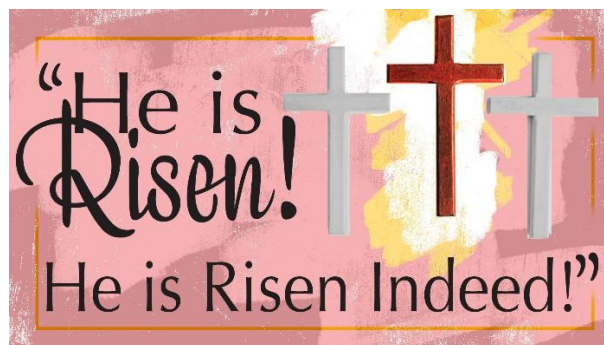


Attention Gardeners
and Worker Bees

We need your help! We are having a workday to "tidy-up"

flower beds and landscaping around the church grounds.

Saturday, June 6, 2026 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**



The Joy of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

"Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing."

—Frederick Buechner

**Sunday,
May 17, 2026,
After Service /
12:30 PM**

A KITCHEN DISASTER



Inviting all the ladies - young and old to join us for some fellowship, history and some fun.

We will be sharing our "treasures" to benefit the NALC Disaster Response Team, please bring the items below, individually, or please feel free to make an entire kit and bring it!

Return this flier to the church office, or offering plate or by calling due **May 2nd**.



We will benefit the NALC Disaster Response Teams in collecting kitchen kits & learning about cooking under duress.

Kitchen Kits

(Pack kits in a 2.5-gallon plastic Ziploc)

- *manual can opener
- *cookbook (found some at Dollar Tree in magazine form)
- *dish cloths
- *dish towel
- *hot pad
- *spatula (turner)
- *measuring cups
- *measuring spoons
- *storage container (2-cup w/lid)
- *garbage bags (a few, mixed sizes)
- *another helpful kitchen item of your choice (i.e., mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc).

Ladies from The 62nd* PA Volunteer Infantry

Living History Family portray how women supported the Army in camp as cooks, laundresses, nurses and other roles.

They will be speaking about Cooking Under Duress in the American Civil War, with highlights including - Hard Tack and Coffee - A Civil War Soldier's Rations, Civil War Camp Cooking, Soldier's Boxes From Home & Family, The U.S. Sanitary Commission and U.S. Christian Commission-Humanitarian Support



- Name: _____
- Phone: _____
- Number attending: _____ adults
_____ children 10 and under
- Food allergy information: _____
- **Total enclosed \$ ZERO** ** by contributing a **complete or parts of** a kitchen kit your meal is covered by THRIVENT FUNDS! The items brought will be assembled and sent to the Disaster Warehouse.

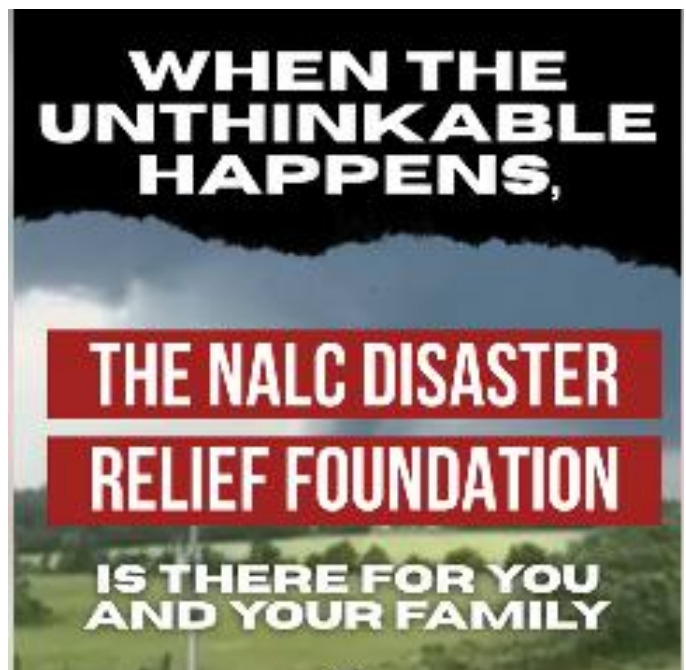
*The 62nd PVI LHF educates the public about the Civil War and the 62nd PVI's role in it through encampments and lectures, both locally and in Gettysburg. The 62nd Pennsylvania Volunteer



Infantry Living History Family has been in existence for over 30 years. This group of living historians was formed to honor the memory of 'the boys' of the 62nd PVI, and to tell their stories of courage and sacrifice. We dress in period appropriate uniforms and dresses and represent the 62nd PVI, Company D, which consisted of 100 men recruited from Armstrong and nearby Indiana Counties during the Civil War.

The 62nd PVI was part of the Union Army of the Potomac and fought in major battles during the Civil War including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. They are honored by a monument at Gettysburg, located in the Wheatfield where they fought on July 2, 1863 and lost many men.

**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
but treasures in Heaven Matthew 6:19-21**



Katie's Cupboard



**Looking ahead to Spring/Summer
(even as snow is flying now)**

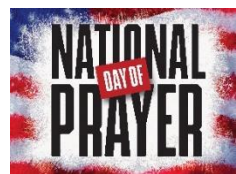
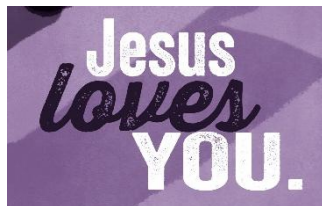
As we prep the crates to plan for spring/summer weather, we also need to look ahead to "easy items" that kids can "microwave" or easy meals for those at home every day.

Here's a list of items that can be easily managed:

- Cereal, Instant oatmeal in single serving packages
 - Beanie weenies, Tuna/chicken salad kits
 - SpaghettiOs/Canned ravioli, soups that make a complete meal (*Dinty Moore, Campbells Chunky soups*)
 - Vienna sausages, Peanut butter and other nut butters,
 - Jelly, Ramen noodle cups, Pitas, pizza sauce, shelf stable parmesan, Easy mac.
 - Veggie straws, trail mix without M&Ms, Fruit cups, Applesauce.
 - Dried fruits: raisins, craisins, banana chips,
 - Dehydrated veggie chips
 - Fiber One Bars, Whole Grain Fig Newtons,
 - Popcorn, Individual pretzel bags,
 - Capri sun/juice boxes, Otter pops that can be frozen,
 - Granola bars, Vanilla wafers
 - Pudding cups, Snack crackers: Goldfish, Cheez-its, Peanut butter crackers,
 - Beef jerky, Fruit snacks, Pop tarts
- Personal items:** First aid ointment, Bug spray, Feminine hygiene products, Band-Aids, combs
Toothpaste/toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo
- Remembering our furry friends:** canned cat/dog food, dry dog/cat food



Are You Baptized?



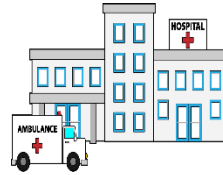
National Day of Prayer

**Thursday, May 7, 2026
@ 6:00 p.m.**

Kittanning Riverfront Amphitheater.
What the world and our nation most need now are our prayers!

*"If you are ignorant of God's Word,
you will always be ignorant
of God's will."*

—Billy Graham



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.



Needed for Altar Care:

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

We still need plastic or metal coffee cans for altar flowers. 30-to-40-ounce cans are ideal.



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19th



The flower chart for 2026 has been posted in the narthex. Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event. You may also call the church office. **Flowers are \$70.00.**



April 2 – Maundy Thursday

Assisting Minister	Deb Bouch
Lector	Elijah Holt
Comm Assistants	Nancy Pierce, Mollie Bouch Elijah & Sophia Holt
Acolytes	William Bouch
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

April 3 – Good Friday

Assisting Ministers	Sara Shafer
Lectors	Gene Hughes, Robert John, John Swanson Lance & Christine Whiteman
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich

April 5 – Easter Sunday

Assisting Ministers	Gene Hughes
Lectors	Roger Mechling
Comm Assistants	Susan Neal & Charlie Bleakney
Acolytes	Marlee Smith, Emily Bouch Jerah Wranich, Callie Adkins, Kendall Bailey
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

April 12

Assisting Ministers	Nancy Pierce
Lectors	Val Lager
Acolytes	Quinn Kellner
Welcome Team	The Kirkpatricks
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

April 19

Assisting Minister	Julie Smith (E) Karen Waugaman (L)
Lector	Rich Farah (E) Kay Thorell (L)
Comm	Amber Zurn & Jill Wranich (E) William & Deb Bouch (L) Charlie Bleakney & Susan Barto (L)
Acolyte	Mitchell Wranich (E) Colvin Adkins (L)
Welcome Team	Blair & Mary Jane Dawson (E) Tammy Fleeger (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Keith Livengood (L)

April 26

Assisting Ministers	Lance Whiteman
Lectors	Nancy Pierce
Acolytes	Anna Venesky
Welcome Team	The Young Family
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.”

—Martin Luther

APRIL

Altar Guild: Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Charley

Money Counters: Jill Wranich, Elijah Holt, Gene Jazwinski

Ushers: Dean Crooks, Chris Choncek, Brock and Brody Hodak

“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.”

—Jesus

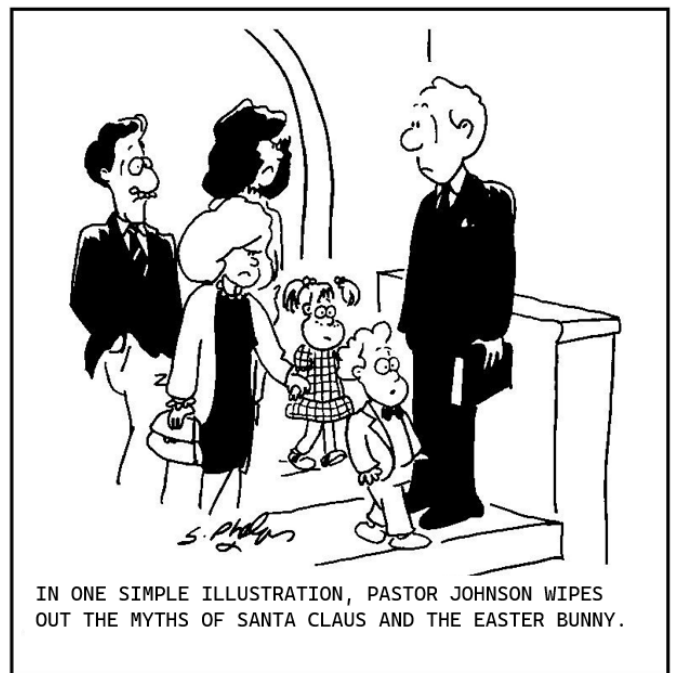
Children's Hour:

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	Angela B. Clever
Sexton	Patrick Pastor
Director of Music/Organist	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer



April St. John's Lutheran Church 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Sunday of the Passion Purple 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship	30	31 Holy Tuesday Purple 7:00 Healing Service: Communion	1 9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Inspirare Youth Bible Study 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	2 Maundy Thursday white 9:30 Children's Hour 7:00 Worship: Communion	3 Good Friday 10:00 Youth Group Egg Hiding Noon Worship Service 7:00 Tenebrae Service	4 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30 Sanctuary Decorating 12pm Easter Egg Hunt
5 Resurrection of Our Lord white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 10:00 Brass Ensemble 11:00 Worship: Communion	6	7	8 No Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior choir	9 No Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	10	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship	13 7:00 Council	14 Noon - Women's Bible Study @ Kings SPARK NIGHT 6:15	15 9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior choir	16 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	17	18 10:00 Inspirare Youth Bible Study
19 Third Sunday of Easter white 8:30 Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	20 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	21	22 9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior choir	23 9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Newsletter mlg 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	24	25
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship After worship: Youth Group	27	28	29 9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	30 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	1	2