

St. John's Way, Truth and Life

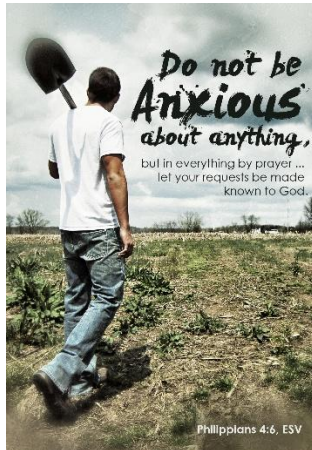
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November 2025



What? Me Worry?

The world seems to be dark and getting darker. There are so many things to worry about: politics, economy, health, personal finances and on and on.

Since Y2K news organizations have learned that anxiety equals ratings. My anxiety shoots through the roof when I hear of Breaking News, only to realize that most of the time it's just news. Hyping news is hyping anxiety and the world is a most anxious place.

I have a God who is bigger than my problems. All my problems are solved in Jesus. So why do I worry? Is it hobby or habit or superstition? Do I really think that worrying will change anything? If God is truly in control of all life, then it's all summed up in the words: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

*If I did not see that the Lord kept watch
over the ship, I should long since have
abandoned the helm. But I see Him! -
through the storm, strengthening the
tackling, handling the yards, spreading the
sails - yes more, commanding the very winds!
Should I not be a coward if I abandoned my
post? Let Him govern, let Him carry us
forward, let Him hasten or delay;
we will fear nothing!*

~Martin Luther

See you in Worship, *Pastor Johnson*

All Saints Sunday is November 2nd

On November 2, 2025, 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:



Diane Elder

Mary J. Elder

Corbin Bowser

Joan George

Joyce Wolff

Greta Bennett

Charles Stonage

William H. Olinger

Clair Klingensmith

Carol Heider

*We thank you O Lord, for the gift of the saints
who have surrounded us
as we run the race of faith!*

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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."



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

Mark Your Calendars

November 3	All Saints Sunday
November 9	Turkey/Ham
November 27	Community Thanksgiving
December 7	Christmas Concert
December 17	Christmas Pageant

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



- Heard Progressive Workshop luncheon September 21st raised \$782.
- Heard that all monies raised at the Turkey/Ham Dinner November 9th will go to the Community Action Agency to buy turkeys for the food bank.
- Heard that plans to feed 100 hungry people on Thanksgiving Day were progressing.
- Approved setting December 14th for the celebration of Julie Smith's 15th anniversary as the Director of Children's and Youth Ministry.
- Evaluated In the Beginning—Generosity program positively, noting ways to improve the program for next year.
- Received thank yous from Received thank you from Bethesda Lutheran Services, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Progressive Workshop, Water Missions, Lutheran World Relief, Hope Lutheran Church Smethport, Lutheran Bible Translators (for the Ethiopian Seminary), 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
Wendy Hodak	724-664-4345
Elijah Holt	860-534-0023
Gene Hughes	724-859-1497
Patricia Kirkpatrick	724-525-0962
Susan Neal	724-763-8331
Brendan Swanson	724-525-7255
John Swanson	724-525-1381
Richard Thorell	724-349-5287
Jill Wranich	724-902-9389

*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.*

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
NOVEMBER 2025**

November Kids Stuff:

Nov. 11th: SUPER SPARK EVENT!

Daytime Kids Retreat! 9:30-2:30

Nov. 2nd, 9th & 16th: Sunday School!

Grades Pre-K to 6th Grade!

Nov. 23rd & 30th: Christmas Pageant

Practice: 9:45-10:40am



Sunday School

EVERY SUNDAY @ 9am, 9:45am & 10am

The MOST important Education Your Child
NEEDS is learning God's Word!

Classes begin on Sept. 14th

We have a class for YOU!

10am: Preschool-6th Graders Flex Classes

We'll be Digging in to God's Word

With Group's *Life of Jesus*

10am: 7th - 12th Graders

High school will be studying ACTS!

9:00am Women's Group Saints & Sinners Study

9:45 Pastor's Class

Christmas Letters

Christmas Pageant 2025

Practice begins for

kids & students

during Sunday School

Nov. 23rd & 30th @ 9:45-10:40am

Later in the Fall,
Kids & Student Events:
December: Spark Christmas Party!
Local Volunteering opportunity
for Jr/Sr HS Students.
& St. John's All Ages Christmas Pageant,
Dec. 14th.

November Student Stuff:

Sunday Nov. 2nd: Campfire, All-Ages 6-8pm

Saturday Nov. 8th Ispirare 10-11am,
Student Bible Study!

Sunday Nov. 9th: No Youth Group

Friday Nov. 14th: All-Ages, Jesus Revolution,
Movie Night 7:45-10:15pm

& Student Lock-In to follow until 5am

Sunday Nov. 16th: No Youth Group

Sunday Nov. 23rd: Student

Pittsburgh Field Trip,
Pittsburgh Creche and Holiday Market 1-5pm

Sunday Nov 30th: NO YOUTH GROUP-

Thanksgiving break

Student Pittsburgh Field Trip

After 11am worship on Nov. 23rd
Visit the Creche, Life-size Nativity, Grant St.
Walk to Peoples Holiday Market in the
Pittsburgh Cultural District
1pm-Approx. 5pm.
GRADES 9-12 ONLY!

Unless accompanied by parent
Bring \$ for Christmas market
Please rsvp by 11-19, for transportation purposes.
Permission Slips will be sent
via link on Mojo App

CAMPFIRE @ ST. JOHN'S, GATHERING SPACE

SUNDAY NOV 2ND 6-8PM

PRAISE SCRIPTURE

GOD STORIES PRAYER

ALL AGES CAMPFIRE @ 6

DINNER YG GAMES @7

Student Bible Study @

Ispirare

Saturday Nov. 8th 10am-

11am

Bring \$ for Coffee & Treats.

2 PART EVENT AT ST. JOHN'S MOVIE NIGHT: EVERYONE, 12 AND UP LOCK-IN: GRADES 6-12 FRIDAY NOV. 14TH WEAR YOUR 70'S ATTIRE!

MOVIE NIGHT: 7:45-10:15 AGES 12 AND UP
EVERYONE INVITED! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
(FILM IS PG-13, FAMILIES USE YOUR OWN DISCRETION)



YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN FOLLOWING MOVIE NIGHT,
UNTIL 5:00AM
COOKIE MAKING
FOOD & GAMES ALL NIGHT PRIZES
WORSHIP AND GOD STORIES
PERMISSION SLIP WILL BE SENT MOJO APP LINK



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, Vieira & Vaila Clever
 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



Our September Church Offerings

	Sept. <u>Receipts</u>	Sept. <u>Budget</u>	Year <u>To-Date</u>	Budget <u>To-Date</u>
<u>Offerings</u>				
Current				
Operating	19,265	27,974	211,487	251,763
Benevolence	1,492	3,333	14,189	30,000
Capital				
Campaign	8,682	1,655	22,581	14,895
Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss	
Current Month	19,265	23,460	-4,195	
Year to Date	211,487	224,444	-12,957	



ATTENDANCE

Our September Worship Attendance

September	2024	2025
1 st Sunday in Sept	E(39) L(72)	114
2 nd Sunday in Sept	134	E(46) L(71)
3 rd Sunday in Sept	E(45) L(79)	102
4 th Sunday in Sept	E(48) L(65)	E(45) L(83)
5 th Sunday in Sept	74	
Sept. Average	111	115



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 724-276-5321. 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.



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.

*"O Lord, that lends me life,
 Lend me a heart
 replete with thankfulness!"*

—William Shakespeare



Thank You's for November 2025:

- ♥ To Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Charley, Janice Smith, and Ruth Ann Hankey, for helping with the October newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to EVERYONE who helped, donated and/or participated in Trunk or Treat!!
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth ministries at St. John's!
- ♥ Thank you to Tammy Fleeger, Sue Bain, Marlee Smith, Emily Bouch and Donna Livengood who helped with SPARK!
- ♥ To everyone who continues to support & donate to the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- ♥ To Men's Breakfast Cooking Crew: Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Scott Stirling, Keith Livengood, Clair Roudebush, Dean Crooks and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helps with the Fellowship Hours after worship: Debbie and Bill Bouch, Rich and Darlene Farrah, Jill Wranich, Susan Mentch, Nancy and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to Sharon Febinger for driving kids to church for Catechism.
- ♥ Thank you to the Praise Band for your time & talents, helping to lead the congregation in worship!
- ♥ To the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$782 made to the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County! We are so grateful for your contributions and will be sure to steward them to best meet the needs of the adults with disabilities enrolled in our programs. Sincerely, PWAC Clients, Employees, and Staff.
- ♥ What a great time of fellowship and elbow-grease! Thanks to Marcia Williamson, Sandy Duncan, Susan Neal, Mark & Sharon Hankey, Nancy Pierce, Connie McMaster, Deb Griffin, Mary Jane Dawson, Blair Dawson, Tammy Fleeger we now have a shine-y, smells like home kitchen area! PS if you have a dish from a food donation, please pick up at the window near the popcorn machine.
- ♥ Dear Congregation and Staff, All the thanks you can imagine aren't enough for you to know how much I appreciate your prayers, love, and cards shown to me in my recent accident. God loves you and so do I. Sincerely, Nancy L. Pierce

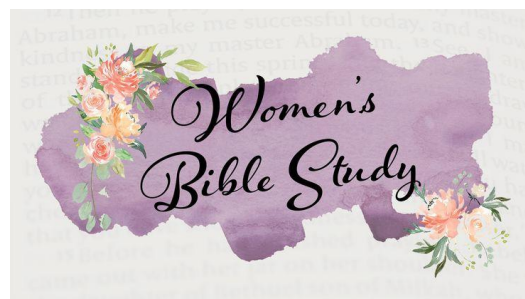


A time of fellowship will be provided each Sunday after worship in the Gathering Space. Please plan to stay after worship to meet and greet fellow members and visitors of St. John's. If you would like to help host a fellowship hour, please see Pastor Johnson.



The Kittanning Ministerial Association is sponsoring a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** on Sunday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Assembly of God, Kittanning.

All are welcome!



Women's Bible Study

will return at the King's restaurant on **Tuesday, November 11th at noon**. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetri38@comcast.net. All are welcome!

*"If the only prayer you said
in your entire life
was 'thank you,'
that would suffice."*

—Meister Eckhardt



Katie's Cupboard

Again, this year we have created a Reverse Advent Calendar and included Epiphany as well.

St John's shines God's grace and light in the community with our cupboard and this addition is something "fun" to get you thinking of "star" items, *warm* items (gifts to the manger), *teaching* items/books (Jesus as a boy at temple) or *miracle* items, the Wedding at Cana (water in to wine). See the attached list in this month's newsletter.

If you would care to volunteer, have great ideas for further this ministry, or can offer suggestions, please contact any member of council, Amber Zurn 724/902-9471 or Tammy Fleeger 724/664-1773.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR KATIE'S CUPBOARD 2025

Day 1	Box of Cereal	Day 13	Dog/Cat food
Day 2	Dish Detergent	Day 14	Cleaning solutions for home
Day 3	Complete meal soups (ex Spaghetti O's)	Day 15	Canned Fruit
Day 4	Protein - canned meats/etc.	Day 16	Female hygiene products
Day 5	Soaps (shower, hand, hair)	Day 17	Powdered milk
Day 6	Dinty Moore Stew	Day 18	Instant Mashed potato
Day 7	Baking products (bisquick, flour, sugar)	Day 19	Toothpaste & brushes
Day 8	Small Instant coffee	Day 20	Mens & womens deodorant
Day 9	Pasta Sauce	Day 21	Soups
Day 10	Stuffing Mix	Day 22	Instant flavored rice/noodles
Day 11	Canned vegetables	Day 23	Pancake mix
Day 12	Shaving items (male/female), combs	*Day 24	Baby food, diaper packs, wipes for babies to celebrate the birth of The Christ Child



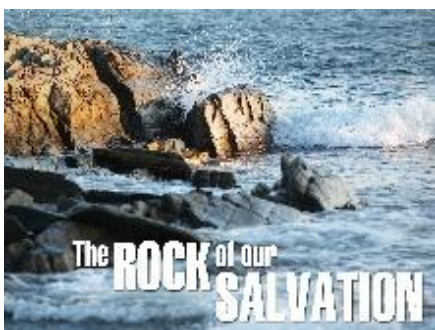
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EPIPHANY

During the season of Epiphany, we reflect on Jesus' manifestation (his appearance or revelation) to the world as the Messiah/Christ, the anointed one of God. Over the next weeks, look for the stories of Jesus' revelatory light, whether it be in the star leading the magi of the east to his manger, the astonishment of the teachers in the temple at the twelve-year-old Jesus' knowledge of God, the pronouncement of the Father and descent of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist or Jesus first Miracle at the Wedding at Cana.

Can you *Shine your light* and donate: Warm hats and gloves and scarfs for in the cupboard? Chicken and *Stars* soup? Single use handwarmers? Children's books? Grape jelly and juice?





Rock of our Salvation **Worship**

8:30 a.m. Sunday, November 23rd

A Day to Honor Our Veterans



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11th as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise.

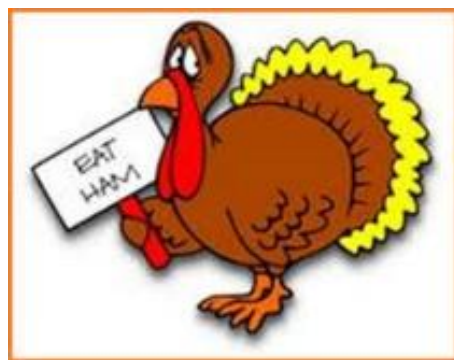
Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).



November Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, November 8th 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 9, 2025 following Worship.

Annual "Turkey" luncheon, will be held on Sunday, November 9th following worship.. 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 2

Assisting Ministers Charlie Bleakney
 Lectors Chris Choncek
 Comm Assistants Sue Neal, Susan Barto
 Tabitha Bowser, Debbie Bouch
 Acolytes Camryn & Lucas Bowser
 Stella and Anna Venesky
 Welcome team Andrea Ehrman and Kherington Hilty
 Camera Operator Nick Wranich

November 9

Assisting Minister Lance Whiteman
 Lector Christine Whiteman
 Acolytes Colvin Adkins
 Welcome Team Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
 Camera Operators Nick Wranich
 Bill Bouch

November 16

Assisting Ministers Kay Thorell
 Lectors Richard Thorell
 Comm Assistants Lori Young, Amber Zurn
 Jonah Petruschke, Sara Shafer
 Acolytes Marlee Smith
 Welcome team Bailey & Jazwinski Families
 Camera Operator Bill Bouch

November 23

Assisting Minister John Swanson (E)
 Gene Hughes (L)
 Lector Mitchell Wranich (E)
 Rose Montgomery (L)
 Communion John & Becky Swanson (E)
 Charlie Bleakney, Mollie Bouch (L)
 Elijah & Sophia Holt (L)
 Acolyte Mitchell Wranich (E)
 Callie Adkins (L)
 Welcome team The Young Family (E)
 The Bouch Family (L)
 Camera Operator Robert John (E)
 Bill Bouch (L)

November 30

Assisting Ministers Nancy Pierce
 Lectors Linda Charley
 Acolytes Ella Fennel
 Welcome Team The Bouch Family
 Camera Operator Keith Livengood

*Real
 Deep
 Worship*

November

Altar Guild: Mary Jane Dawson

Money Counters: Richard Thorell, Patricia Kirkpatrick,
 William Bouch

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 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."*



November

St. John's Lutheran Church

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			29 6:15 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	30 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	31	1 
2 All Saints Sunday White 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 6:00 Campfire & Youth Group	3 7:00 Property	4 	5 9:30 Children's Hour 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	6 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	7	8 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00am Youth at Inspirare
9 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Green 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 12:00 Thrivent Turkey Dinner	10 7:00 Council	11  12:00 Womens Study at kings	12 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	13 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	14 7:45pm Movie Night 10:15pm Youth Lock In	15
16 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Green 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	17 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	18  1:00 Newsletter mailing	19 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	20 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	21	22
23 Christ the King White 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 1:00pm Youth Group Pittsburgh Trip 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Worship at Cornerstone AG	24	25 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	26	27 	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent Blue 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion						