# 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

### May 2025

## Christ Is Risen!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED (Leluia)

I write this the day after Easter. I am still glowing from worship. Lutherans know how to worship!

We enter into God's house. We sit down. We look to the left and to the right—surrounded by sinners. God's house is the place where the Great Physician comes to meet the sick. We are a hospital for sinners.

Jesus Himself comes to bring the cure from the "sickness unto death—" the forgiveness of sin. We respond to this gift by singing the first hymn—offering our worship through singing.

We stand and sit and worship with our whole body. The quip is true: Lutheran Calisthenics up/down/up/down is not because we need the exercise but because worship is not a show, something that we watch as the real action takes place up front, but because we are the actors in worship. We sing, we stand, we sit worshipping. Liturgy means, "Work of the people."

Take for example the Kyrie. The cantor bids: "in peace, let us pray to the Lord." We respond "Lord have mercy" as we are praying to God for peace, for each other, for the world. The body of Christ gathers to pray.

In Holy Communion Jesus comes to eat and drink with sinners. He feeds us with His precious body and blood that we might become the body of Christ for the world. We are strengthened to go and spread the Good News that because Jesus lives, we shall live too. Because Jesus lives, sin, death and the devil do not have the final word.

Worship is saying "thank you." Our God gives us all we have and all we need. Sunday morning is a time when we come to worship God to say, "Thank you!" This month is filled with thank yous. Thank God for our mothers. Thank God for our veterans and their sacrifice. Thank God for His abundant blessings as we return a proportion of what we have first received in praise and thanksgiving for what He has first given us.

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson



Annual Spring Concert
Sunday, May 4th, 2025
St. John's Lutheran Church
218 N. Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA
At 7:00 p.m.

The Senior & Junior Bell Choirs & the Senior & Children's 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.



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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.

- Download the free app on your Apple or Android phone.
- 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: <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com">https://secure.myvanco.com</a>

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



#### **Mark Your Calendars**

May 4	Spring Concert
May 18	Youth Sunday
June 1	Grad Sunday
June 7	Landscaping Work Day
June 8	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 22	Over 80 Banquet
June 16-19	Vacation Bible School
July 14-18	NALC Youth Camp
July 21-23	NALC- Elementary Camp
Sept. 7	Rally Day
October 5	Generosity Sunday



There was no Congregational Council meeting in April in order to focus on the Lenten journey back to God.

A complete copy of the approved minutes from each month is posted on bulletin boards in the Narthex and Education Building.

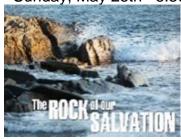
Your Church Council members are always available for your questions and concerns:

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	724-543-3011
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 God said, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah answered, "Here I am! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8, ESV). Lord, help me be just as eager to take part in your work. Amen.

## Rock of our Salvation Worship

Sunday, May 25th 8:30am



## Kids and Youth May 2025



AT St. Johns Kittanning

# May Date TBA FREE!

Dinner, Bible Story,
Exciting, faith building
interactive stations with games,
crafts and activities!

#### Preschool-6th Grade

Parents! Stay and hang out, relax and rest, or run some errands! Text SPARK to 724 276 5321 for weather updates, announcements and reminders!



MAGNIFIED!
Vacation Bible School 2025!
June 16-19
9:00-11:30am
Kids Pre-K-5th Grade

Sign up at www.tinvurl.com/stiohnskittanningvbs2025

# Youth Group Sunday May 4th: Spring Concert, No Youth Group Sunday May 11th: No Youth Group, Happy Mother's Day! SUNDAY MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>: Youth Sunday!! Youth to help lead worship! Sunday May 26th: No Youth Group Happy Memorial Day Last Youth Group: June 1st, 6:30-8pm Water Balloon fight, and Pizza! VBS help: Beginning of June to Decorate, VBS WEEK: June 16-19, 9:00-11:30am



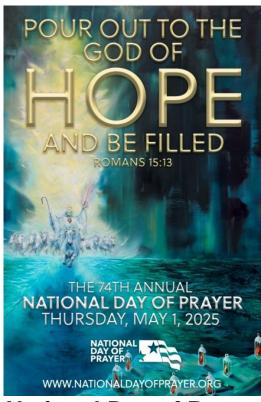
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Page opening soon!!!



- 1 Lisa George,
  - Haylee Young
- 2 Pastor Carl Johnson
- 3 Logan Bowser
- 4 Janice Smith,
- Janessa Heller,

#### John Swanson

- 5 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 Shambergerk
- 17 Edith Round, Caroline Black
- 18 Tim Gallaher, Rebecca Johnson, Kendall Bailey
- 20 Cindy Law
- 21 Gwen Dosch, Mark Helmininack
- 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



## **National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 1, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
Kittanning Riverfront Amphitheater.
What the world and our nation most need now is our prayers!



**Our March Church Offerings** 

Our March Onurch Onerings					
	Mar	Mar	Year	Budget	
<u>Offerings</u>	<b>Receipts</b>	<u>Budget</u>	To-Date	To-Date	
Current					
Operating	44,328	26,887	82,241	80,661	
Benevolence	1,981	3,333	4862	10,000	
Capital					
Campaign	2,498	1,762	6,277	5,286	

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	44,328	22,455	21,874
Year to Date	82,241	72,062	10,178



Our March Worship Attendance

March	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
1st Sunday in March	50(E) 62(L)	126
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Mar	93	110
3rd Sunday in March	100	120
4th Sunday in March	*	74
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in March	178	106
March Average	121	107
Maundy Thursday	88	
Good Friday	55	_

\* Not available



#### Women's Bible Study

will be held at King's restaurant on Thursday, May 9th at noon. Any

questions, please contact Rose Montgomery rosetrix 38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



# Thank You's for May 2025

- ▼ Thank you April Newsletter helpers: Mary Jane Dawson, Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty Mitchell, and Julie Smith.
- ▼ Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.
- Thank you to those who helped with the Richard Baker funeral dinner: Nancy Johnson, Connie Fuska, Cindy Law, Debbie Bouch, Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty Mitchell, Debbie Griffin, Toni Smail, Tammy Fleeger, Sharon Hankey, Gene Hughes, Connie McMaster, Valerie Lager, and Linda Howlett.
- What a wonderful evening was spent in fellowship and education about bears, provided by the PA Game Commissioners. Thanks to Kyle, Dennis, Patty, Erica, Landon and Emma for preparing the meal. "Game" provided by Steve Repak, Adam McAfoose, Pastor Johnson, Kyle Kirkpatrick and Don Grantz. Desserts, as always were plentiful and thanks to Linda Howlett, Tammy Byrne, Deb Bouch, Erica Kirkpatrick, Patty Kirkpatrick and Tammy Fleeger. Many hands also make light work in setup, serving and cleanup, kudos to: Betty & Alan Mitchell, Connie McMaster, Deb Griffin, Toni Smail, Denny & Patty Kirkpatrick, Emma, Landon, Erica, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Nancy Johnson, Karen Waugaman, Deb Bouch, Linda Howlett, Tammy Fleeger.
- What a wonderful afternoon of fellowship at the Women's Banquet. We had a record attendance this year! Thanks to the "crew" Kyle Kirkpatrick, Mark Hankey, Gene Hughes, Jack Griffin, Colvin Adkins, Bill & Bill Bouch, Pastor Johnson . . . AND a few ladies behind the scenes, Stella, Anna & Melissa Venesky, Emily, Molly & Deb Bouch, Elizabeth John, Chaunie Wright, Deb Griffin, Toni Smail, Tammy Fleeger and MaryJane Dawson.
- Thanks to those who set up, cleaned up and donated items for the Easter Breakfast celebration: MaryJane Dawson, Connie McMaster, Deb & Jack Griffin, Deb Bouch, Jill Wranich, Linda Howlett, Tammy Fleeger, Mark Hankey, Gene Hughes.
- I wish to thank Pastor Johnson his visit, prayers and Communion while I was in Allegheny General Hospital. Ed Parry.
- To Linda Charley and Ruth Ann Hankey for covering the office while Julie and Angela were on vacation.
- To Nick and Mitchell Wranich for putting the shroud on the cross on Maundy Thursday and for taking the shroud down and replacing it with Easter Lillies on Easter Sunday.
- To Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson, Nick and Mitchell Wranich, Bill Bouch and for stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday.

- Thank you to Amber & Kylie Zurn for sorting and organizing donations to Katie's cupboard.
- ▼ Thank you to Blair & Mary Jane Dawson for the paper products for Katie's Cupboard
- ▼ Thanks to Connie McMaster for checking Katie's items for out-dates.
- ▼ Thank you to the praise band for sharing time and talents to lead 8:30 worship in April.
- Thank you to everyone who donated candy and/or eggs for the Easter Egg hunt.
- Thank you to Stella and Anna Venesky, Ella Fennell, and Cassidy, Delaney and Marlee Smith, and Robert John, Pastor and Steve Repak, for Help before, during and after our Easter Egg Hunt!
- ▼ Thank you to the following Youth Crew who helped fill and hide eggs: Emily, Mollie and William Bouch, Callie and Colvin Adkins, Ella Fennell, Robert John, Kendall Bailey, Marlee, Cassidy, and Delaney Smith, Jerah and Mitchell Wranich, and Lizzie and Noelle Smoyer! Great job everyone!
- Thank you to Amber and Kylie Zurn for your help with the pew pads, vacuuming and cleaning!
- Thank you to Dean Crooks, Linda Charley for help with vacuuming, cleaning, garbage and more!
- Thank you to everyone who supports our Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!
- ▼ Thank you to Charlie Bleakney, Linda Charlie, 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, Keith Livengood, Bill, Deb, Mollie & William Bouch, Mona Bouch, Robert John, Julie, Cassidy, Delaney and Marlee Smith and Pastor Johnson for decorating the sanctuary.
- ▼ Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten men's breakfasts: Frank Baker, Clair Roudebush, Steve Repak, Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Dean Crooks & Pastor Johnson.
- ▼ Thank you to Blair Dawson & Steve Repak for operating the lighting during worship.
- ▼ To Blair Dawson for troubleshooting the electronic sign.

## **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

#### We have this Treasure

- A Treasure that has been entrusted to St. John's to share for 200 Years
- A Treasure of worshipping our God in the historic apostolic western tradition of Christianity that reaches back 2000 years, and in parts 3000 years and 3400 years.

#### We have this Treasure

- Serving Jesus Christ in Word and Deed for 200 years.
- A staggering amount of Mission and Ministry has taken place over the past 200 years.

#### We have this Treasure

- This is a year of Celebration and Challenge as we carry the Mission and Ministry of Christ forward into the next 200 years.
- We have been blessed deeply.
- We are called by God to be a blessing.



#### **Children's Hour:**

Children's Hour is every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Last classes to be held May 14 & 15<sup>th</sup>!





#### 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 7, 2025 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.



We would LOVE to see <u>YOU</u> in person.

However, if you are away on vacation or need to watch from elsewhere:

We ARE here for you

<u>!</u>



# Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast

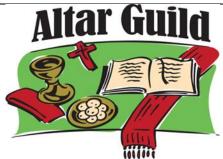
The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on You Tube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. as well as 8:30 a.m. service Sundays.

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.





#### **Needed for Altar Care:**

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

# Kalie's Cupboard MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

With long summer days & weekends with insufficient access to food as school will soon be out of session, bubbles, coloring books and sidewalk chalk helps entertain the little ones at home or daycare and are always welcome.

<u>Katie's Cupboard @ St Johns will be needed more than</u>
<u>ever!</u> If you should bring your items on a Sunday, please leave on the cart in the Gathering Space.

It is still <u>always possible</u> to leave in the cupboard daily as the Holy Spirit moves you! This way we can bless the cupboard thru the week <u>and</u> weekends consistently.

Pray over this, when you are shopping what needs do YOU address for your household that you could purchase to bless this ministry as well?

<u>Please remember you are feeding Jesus' flock</u>
No opened, used, home canned or expired items please.



# 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.

Our Continental Convocation will be here in Downtown Pittsburgh this year--August 3rd thru August 8th at the Omni William Penn Hotel.

As the host Mission District, we are being asked to help staff this event with volunteers to help out.

Below are the general descriptions of the volunteers we will need:

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

**Hosts:** Serve as greeters and provide information to attendees; are stationed at places throughout hotel facility to help attendees find meeting rooms, restrooms, meal area(s) and the display area.

<u>Registration:</u> Serve to welcome and check in attendees; includes distributing materials, nametags, voting equipment.

<u>Display Assistants:</u> Assist various ministries with getting materials to the display area, setting up displays and finding their way around the hotel.

<u>Ushers:</u> Check credentials at doors and provide information and assistance at all general sessions; serve as ushers during worship services.

<u>First Aid/Medical Response:</u> Individuals trained in First Aid and/or Medical Response who can provide minor first aid and/or assistance or direction in case of a medical emergency.

<u>Camera Operators Audio/Video</u>: Work closely with the Technology Director to operate cameras during worship or plenary sessions. Zooming, panning, focusing, and framing video shots per the director's request. A short amount of training provided. Mostly standing.

Orientation and training is provided for each role.

We are also looking for each church to have a volunteer coordinator to help with this request.

There will soon be a sign up program online where you can sign up for what and when you can help out with. Updates will be sent via emails to the churches and on our Mission District website.

Thank you in advance for all of your help!! May God continue to bless us as we strive to do His work.

Your brother in Christ, Steve Krepp - Local Volunteer Coordinator -2025 NALC Continental Convocation

#### The language of lament

Unlike nonbelievers, Christians can grieve with hope (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). On Memorial Day and at Christian funerals and burials, our lament is real — and it's a uniquely Christian concept, according to Pastor Mark Vroegop. "It takes faith to pray when you are in pain," he writes in *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*. "Belief in God creates challenging questions, and lament provides the opportunity to reorient your hurting heart toward what is true. But in order for that to happen, you have to turn to prayer. The silent treatment must end."

Vroegop, who had a stillborn daughter, says lament opens a door that leads to trust. Heartfelt lament, he says, can be brief or messy and can feel forced or uncomfortable. But the important thing is to "keep talking to God."

"Don't allow your fear, your despair or your track record of silence to cut off the flow of grace," he urges. "Your pain can be a path toward God if you'll allow lament to be your new language."



## 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.



Memorial Day May 26 2025 Wear A Poppy for remembrance

## In Flander's Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flander's fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, tho poppies grow
In Flander's fields.

Liet. -Col. John McCrae

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Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the canceling of a debt.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

# May

#### <u> May 4</u>

Assisting Minister
Lector
Comm Assistants
Acolytes
Welcome Team
Camera Operator

Kay Thorell
Richard Thorell

#### May 11

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Linda Charley
Acolytes
Colvin Adkins
Welcome Teams
Donna Livengood & Elementary
Sunday School Students
Camera Operators
Keith Livengood

#### May 18 - Youth Sunday

Assisting Minister Youth
Lector Youth
Comm Assistants Youth
Acolytes Youth
Welcome Team Youth
Camera Operator Robert John

#### May 25

	<u></u>
Assisting Minister	John Swanson (E)
	Rose Montgomery (L)
Lector	Melissa Venesky (E)
	Chris Choncek (L)
Comm Assistants	Jill Wranich & Melissa Venesky (E)
Acolyte	Mitchell Wranich (E)
	Ella Fennell (L)
Welcome Team	The Farahs (E)
	The Shafers (L)
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich (E)
	Keith Livengood (L)

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

—Martin Luther

#### MAY

Altar Guild: Megan Rupp, Lori Young

Money Counters: Kraig Walker, John Swanson,

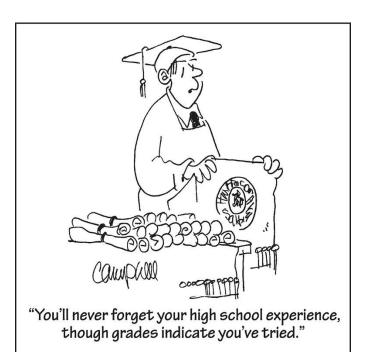
Susan Neal

**Ushers**: Ed and Kraig Walker, Brock and Brody Hodak

#### St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
TBA
Director of Music/Organist
Sr. Choir Accompanist
Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
TBA
Rebecca Veith
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."



May

## St. John's Lutheran Church

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>27</b> Second Sunday of Easter whit 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	28	29	9:30 Children's Hour	9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism National Day of Prayer	2 Children's hour Zoo field trip	3
4 Third Sunday of Easter White 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Communion 7:00 Spring Concert Spring Concert	7:00 Property	6	7 9:30 Children's Hour No Choir	9:30 Children's hour Noon Womens Bible Study Kings Restaurant 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	9	8:00 am Men's Breakfast
9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Happy Mother's Day!	7:00 Council	13	9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	16	17
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter White Youth Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Communion	6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship/Music	20	6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	1:00 Newsletter mailing 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	23	24
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter White 8:30 Rock of Our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28	2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	30	31