
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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April 2018



*"The cross teaches us
to believe in hope even
when there is no
hope."*

—Martin Luther

I was in one of those deep theological discussions that only happens to pastors who overthink such things: "can we be joyful in Lent?"

Lent calls us to repentance and being penitential. There needs to be sorrow for our sins. "Now say you're sorry," we have heard our parents say and we better not crack a smile while doing it! Even more so when it comes to our Heavenly Father. **But God...**

Through the cross of Christ God has conquered Sin, Death, and the Devil once and for all. Eternal life is ours through Jesus Christ. We do not need to eke out our salvation one work at a time because Jesus accomplished it all for us already. The battle is already won.

Thus Lent is not about cowering like a dog in trouble before its master. Lent is the joy of walking closer to our loving Heavenly Father. It's all about joy because it's all about His love.

At all times, in all places, in all circumstances, we do not need to take life (or ourselves) too seriously, because all the important stuff has already been done by Jesus. Relax, spread His joy and His love—we know the future, and it is bright.

If we could have done it on our own He wouldn't have to have died. Because we can't, He did. To God be the glory!

Because He lives, we too shall live.

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson



March 25 Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms
The Passion According to St. Mark

March 27 Healing Service

Special Communion Service 7:00 PM

March 29: Maundy Thursday

Special Communion Service 7:00 PM

March 30: Good Friday

Youth Group Easter Egg Decorating 9:30 AM

Donations of candy appreciated

Community Good Friday Service

St. John's Noon to 1:00 PM

Tennebrae Service 7:00 PM

A service of light and darkness

March 31: Holy Saturday

Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for the Children 12:00 PM

Retelling the Easter Story

Nursery to 5th Grade

April 1: Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Celebration

Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM

Festival Communion Service with Brass Ensemble

Table of Contents

Page 2	Easter Breakfast, Joy Lunch, Soc. Min.
Page 3	Children's and Youth Activities
Page 4	Children's and Youth Activities
Page 5	Birthdays, Attendance, Finance, Hymnfest
Page 6	Thank You's, Spring Concert, Seminary
Page 7	Worship Leaders & WNALC Gathering
Page 8	Calendar



Come join the: JOY Lunch Bunch

At noon on Wednesday, April 11, 2018

In the Social Hall

Program:

Penn State Master Gardner Patricia Goldman – Container Gardening!

All those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share. Baked chicken will be the entrée.

A free-will donation is taken to help with meat entrée and program expenses.

Everyone is invited!

Please RSVP to church office, 724-548-2051

No later than April 9.



Social Ministry Cookie Packing

Collection: April 9th

Please bring in cookies Sunday, April 8. The Social Ministry Committee will pack on April 9. **Please contact the church office to update your student's address/school status and your loved one's military address to be sure they receive cookies.**



Easter Sunday Breakfast

April 1, 2018

9:30 a.m.

St. John's Social Hall

Please bring a breakfast casserole
Pastry or breakfast treat to share
Juice, Milk and coffee will be provided

*Jesus Christ is
the Way, the Truth and the Life!
He is
The Resurrection and the Life!*



- The 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:

Charlesetta Bleakney	724-543-6168
Lisa Crytzer	724-545-9328
Sharon Febinger	724-543-2413
Tammy Fleeger	724-297-5889
Tyler Heller	724-919-8014
Brock Hodak	724-664-4345
Diana Ignatz	Unlisted
Rick John	724-297-5319
Dennis Lager	724-543-5274
Keith Livengood	724-664-4063
John Swanson	724-548-8992
Nick Wranich	724-548-5121

Mark Your Calendars

April 1	Easter
April 13	Family Frolic Friday
April 15	Bible Bowl: St. Thomas, Hoovers
April 29	Youth Sunday
	All Lutheran Hymn Festival
May 6	Spring Concert
May 19	Every Daughter Tea
May 20	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 9	Blessing of the Animals
June 18-22	Vacation Bible School
June 25-28	Youth Mission Trip to Atlantic City
July 16-20	Lutherlyn Daycamp
July 23-27	NALC Camp
August 2-5	Folk Festival
Aug 15-17	NALC National Convocation
September 23	Progressive Workshop Dinner
October 7	Harvest Home
October 28	Reformation
November 11	Veterans Day
	Thrivent Turkey Dinner
December 2	Christmas Concert

Thank You's for Children and Youth are in the Thank You part of Newsletter.

**KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT
NURSERY-5TH GRADE
SATURDAY MARCH 31ST
NOON-1PM**

BRING YOUR OWN BASKET
HEAR THE EASTER STORY,
MAKE RESURRECTION CRAFTS,
CELEBRATE THE EASTER SEASON!



BIBLE BOWL 2018

The Gospel of Luke



*April 15th at 3pm
At St. Thomas,
Hooversville, Pa.
at the Grove*

**EASTER BREAKFAST
SUNDAY APRIL 1ST**

9:45AM

BRING A BREAKFAST DISH TO SHARE!



Lasagna Luncheon

Youth Group Fundraiser

Sunday, May 6th

After Worship

Please come support our Youth!

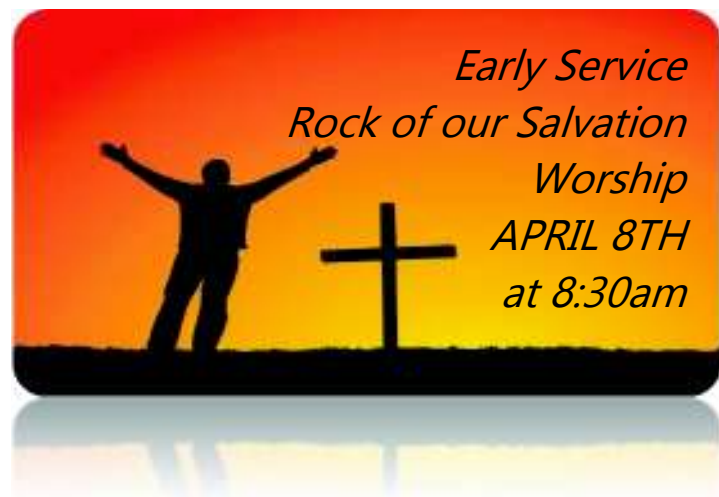


*Be
Kind
To one
Another*

FAITH GIRLZ

TUESDAY

APRIL 17TH 6-7PM



*Early Service
Rock of our Salvation
Worship
APRIL 8TH
at 8:30am*

**WATER
SUNDAY**

**MAY 27TH
AFTERWORSHIP**



**SPRING & SUMMER FUN!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



LUTHERLYN CAMP BLAST MAY 12TH



July 16-20 9am-3pm

For All kids entering 1st-5th grade
Cost is \$30/member, \$15 sibling discount
\$40/non-member



Registration forms will be mailed in May and available at the Youth Table or in the office, or call 724-548-2051
Lutherlyn will be sending their Camp Staff to host a whole week of fun, adventure and faith here at St. John's! From 9am-3pm daily! Because Lutherlyn and St. John's Lutheran Church are committed to providing a safe and fun environment for every camper that promotes and encourages their physical, spiritual, emotional, and social development! We will have a great week doing lots of fun camp stuff (games, nature, activities, crafts, songs, puppets, stories, Bible Study, "campfire" and lots of surprises)! We will also be going to Crooked Creek Park for a field trip on Wednesday, July 18th!

SATURDAY MARCH 31ST: KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT 12-1PM

SUNDAY APRIL 8TH: EARLY SERVICE

SUNDAY APRIL 8TH: YOUTH GROUP

FRIDAY APRIL 13TH: FAMILY FUN AND FROLICK, 7-9PM, TALENT SHOW, AND MOVIE SNACKS!!!

APRIL 15TH: BIBLE BOWL, 3PM, ST. THOMAS, HOOVERVILLE, PA

(no youth group on the 15th)

TUESDAY APRIL 17TH: FAITH GIRLZ, 6-7

SUNDAY APRIL 22ND: YOUTH GROUP 6:30-8PM

SUNDAY APRIL 29TH: YOUTH GROUP 6:30-8PM

MAY 6TH: YOUTH LASAGNA LUNCHEON

MAY 13TH: Happy Mother's Day, No Youth Group

MAY 20TH: NO YOUTH GROUP, WOMENS DINNER

MAY 27TH: WATER SUNDAY, WATER MISSIONS FUNDRAISER

MAY 27TH: HAPPY MEMORIAL WEEKEND, NO YOUTH GROUP

JUNE 3RD: YOUTH GROUP

MEGA SUMMER PARTY, 6-8PM, WATER BALLOON BATTLE, PIZZA

SUMMER DATES:

VBS: WEEK OF JUNE 18TH: 9:30-NOON

9-12 YOUTH TRIP TO AC: TBA SOON!

DAY CAMP: JULY 16TH-20TH

NALC CAMP: JULY 23-27,

GRADES 6-12



- 1 Megan Reed
- 2 Sandy Hellam, Charles Lukehart, Chase Steiner
- 3 Joshua Olinger
- 4 Kurt Zimmerman

- 5 Carol Pfeister
- 6 Brayden Black
- 7 Chris McDermott, Ann Lash, Rhodetta Meyer
- 8 Ayla Ansell
- 9 Matthew Lasher, Lisa Crytzer, Linda Robards, Hannah Moore
- 10 Ethan Febinger
- 11 Anita Kunkle
- 13 Amy Crawford, Elana Staschak
- 14 Parker Heller
- 15 Carol Boarts, Jeannine Debnar, Bruce Gray, David Wingard
- 16 Helen Boarts, Nancy Graff, Esther Baker
- 17 Maria Recupero, Brandon Choncek, Brendan Smith, Connor Zacherl
- 18 Gloria Sgro, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Lea Sharrer
- 19 Nathan Lasher, Josee Zydonik
- 21 Sara Dosch, Link Black
- 22 Gertrud Tarr, Scott Beck, Madeline Baillie, Brody Hodak, Sophia Whiteman
- 23 Gabrielle Cravener
- 24 Lisa Stitt, Evelyn McKelvey
- 26 Susan Blaney
- 27 Jim Stitt, Lucas Heller, Wilbur Stitt
- 28 Greta Bennett
- 30 Edward Leard, Allison Ignatz

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



Our Feb. Church Offerings

Offerings	Feb. Receipts	Feb. Budget	Year To-Date	Budget
				To-Date
Current Account	20,689	23,900	37,471	47,800
Benevolence	1,539	3,333	2,675	6,667
Capital Campaign	2,784	9,515	4,944	19,029
Current Account	Income	Expenses	Behind	
Current Month	20,689	22,371	-1,682	
Year to Date	37,471	48,756	-11,286	

ATTENDANCE

Our February Worship Attendance

	2017	2018
1st Sunday in Feb.	139	136
2nd Sunday in Feb.	135	45 (E) 107 (L)
3rd Sunday in Feb.	135	136
4th Sunday in Feb.	143	136
Average for Feb.	138	140

Why Communion?

Christ has planted His Table like an oasis along our pathway, in order that when we become weary with travel, weak and hungry in our souls, discouraged and wounded because of our false steps, stumbling, and falling, we may then enter there and be refreshed with the living Bread of Life.

—Carl Olof Rosenius (1816-1868)

St. John's Live Broadcast

The St. John's worship service is being broadcast live on Family Life TV (channel 23) and on the Internet via Family Life.org each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.



**“Dear Christians,
One and All Rejoice”**

a Martin Luther Hymn Festival
Sunday, April 29, 2018
7 p.m.

**Heinz Chapel,
University of Pittsburgh**

All are invited to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation through Luther's hymns and music.

Members of St. John's choir will be participating.



- Lynda Howlett and Mary Dawson for preparing the March newsletter for mailing.
- Thank you to all those who stayed to visit and show their support to Margherita
- Thank you to those who donated food and supplies – Alice Stitt, Rose Debnar, Sharon Febinger, Janet Means, Lisa Neyman, Toni Smail, Cheryl Mechling and Tammy Fleeger.
- Thank you to those who helped to set up, prepare the refreshments and clean up – Toni Smail, Ginny Brown, Connie McMaster, Tammy Fleeger, Debbie Griffin and Juanita John.
- To all that support our Children's and Youth Ministry.
- To those that helped with the Jeane Smart Funeral dinner: Debbie Griffin, Rose Montgomery, Ginny Brown, Connie McMaster, Karen Beck, Alice Stitt, Judy Parry, Lisa Crytzer, Ruth Ann Hankey, Rose Debnar, Diana Ignatz, Carol Runniger, Becky Swanson.
- To all of St. John's for their help and prayers. The dinner following the service was delicious and kindly served. Thank you! The Margaret Charley Family
- To those that helped with the Margaret Charley funeral dinner: Carol Heider, Larry & Janet Means, Karen Beck, Betty Mitchell, Alice Stitt, Connie McMaster, Ruth Ann Hankey, Judy Parry, Diana Ignatz, Cheryl Mechling, Mary Dawson & Carol Runniger



Spring Concert May 6th

At 7:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary.

The Senior & Junior Bell Choirs

and

the Senior & Children's Vocal Choirs

and

Children's Chimes

under the direction of Rebecca Veith

Mark your calendars...

you don't want to miss this!

*The concert is free and open to the public,
so bring your family, friends and neighbors
and celebrate spring with us!*



Mission Partner of the Month:

Each month we will highlight one of our Mission Partners we support either through our benevolence giving or luncheons following worship. This month is the North American Lutheran Seminary located at the Trinity School of Ministry, Ambridge, PA.



As we live out the Mission/Vision of NALS, shaping competent and capable leaders for the North American Lutheran Church we are called to:

- Take delight in our studies of Holy Scripture, Lutheran Confessions, and all the academic disciplines provided within the seminary's curriculum
- Live out the trust we have in God through a life of daily prayer, regular reception of the Holy Sacrament, and attentive listening to the preaching of his Word
- Listen to the cries of God's people so that we may witness with compassion, openness, and strength
- Give thanks to God for his unending love for us seeking his will in all things
- Sing the faith that is in us
- Prepare ourselves in the classroom, in the church, and in the world, to be pastors, teachers, evangelists, and catechists: servants who minister in Christ's name, vessels of his mercy

As students, faculty, and staff we seek to live out the reign of God together, proclaiming his lordship and his desire for all people to know his eternal love for them.

The NALS is supported through our benevolence giving.

April

April 1

Assisting Minister	Gene Hughes
Lector	Linda Charley
Comm. Assistants	Rose Montgomery & Nancy Pierce
Acolytes	Jackson & Wyatt Lager, Olivia Whiteman, Tyler McMahon
Greeters	Helen & Carol Boarts
Nursery	No Nursery
Ushers	Blair & Mary Dawson, Bill & Jarrod Olinger
Camera Operator	Elizabeth John

April 8

Assisting Minister	Lance Whiteman (E) Keith Livengood (L)
Lector	Elizabeth Shafer (E) Charlesetta Bleakney (L)
Comm. Assistants	Val & Dennis Lager (E)
Acolytes	Wyatt Lager (E) Nesta Adkins (L)
Greeters	Carole & Jerry Cable
Nursery	Jessica Bailey
Ushers	Blair & Mary Dawson, Bill & Jarrod Olinger
Camera Operator	Ben Swanson

April 15

Assisting Minister	Sara Shafer
Lector	Frank Baker
Comm. Assistants	John & Becky Swanson
Acolytes	Lisa Crytzer & Charlesetta Bleakney Ashleigh Choncek, Liz Shafer, Anna Choncek, Eve Shafer
Greeters	Ed & Judy Parry
Nursery	Ginny Brown
Ushers	Blair & Mary Dawson, Bill & Jarrod Olinger
Camera Operator	Ryan Shafer

April 22

Assisting Minister	Cheryl Mechling
Lector	Mary Baker
Acolyte	Landon Crissman
Greeters	Bill & Carol Heider
Nursery	John Family
Ushers	Blair & Mary Dawson, Bill & Jarrod Olinger
Camera Operator	Olivia Whiteman

April 29

Assisting Minister	Youth
Lector	Youth
Acolyte	Youth
Greeters	Youth
Nursery	Chris Choncek Family
Ushers	Youth
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

Money Counters:

Diana Ignatz, Sharon Febinger, Brock HOdak

Children's Hour:

April 4 & 5 April 11 & 12 April 18 & 19
April 25 & 26

Spring Gathering

Women of the NALC

of the Mid Northeast Mission District

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Salem Lutheran Church,

*26 Clarion Street. P.O. Box 87,
Smicksburg, PA 16256*

*Please RSVP by Friday, April 6.
The cost of the lunch is \$6.00.*



SUNDAY

Youth Group to Lead Worship Service

The Youth Group will lead worship service will be on April 29th. As always, our youth will preach, read, usher, and greet. Please plan to support our youth by attending this joyous service of praise.

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Tricia Howard
Sexton	Terry Cousins
Director of Music/Organist	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer

Altar Guild: Linda Charley & Mary Dawson