St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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Apríl 2024



...let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe... Hebrews 12:28, NRSV

God's Unmatched Generousity

I write to you in Holy Week, preparing to enter into the three holiest days of the year, sitting in amazement at God's giving. His giving knows no bounds. The fact that "while we were yet

sinners, Christ died for us" is astounding.

God is not a miser. He has blessed us with life and country, food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all we need from day to day. Satan trains us to focus on what's missing in our lives. God showers us with blessings and we are convinced that we are parched. God floods us with blessings and the devil instructs us to turn a blind eve.

"For while we were still weak. At the right time Christ died for the ungodly." He gave us all—even His only Son that we might have life through Him.

A friend said to me, "You can't outgive God." "Challenge accepted," I started to say, but the words stuck in my throat. I realized what trying to outgive God would cost. I was truly humbled.

To outgive God would cost everything and still not be enough. He has given all. He has paid it all. He has done it all.

All that is left is Thank You!

See you in Sunday School and Worship,

Pastor Johnson



Annual Spring Concert Sunday, May 5th, 2024

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.

Table of Contents

Page 2 Council Highlights, Electronic Giving Page 3 Children and Youth Opportunities Page 4 Thank You's, Bible Study, Music Notes Page 5 Birthdays, Attendance, Finance Page 6 Women's Banquet, Katies cupboard Page 7 Rock of our Salvation Page 8 Altar Guild, Benevolence Spotlight Page 9 Worship Leaders Page 10 Calendar



Vanco Electronic Giving APP

You can make a contribution to St. John's through a mobile app!

To get started, download "Vanco Mobile" for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "Vanco Mobile" 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.
- 2. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church.
- 3. Do NOT use a PERIOD after St, or comma in Johns to search.
- 4. Select St Johns Lutheran Church 218 North Jefferson St Kittanning, Pa.
- 5. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
- 6. Log in or donate as a guest.
- 7. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Congregational Meeting April 14th Immediately following Worship.

Congregational Council has called a Congregational Meeting for April 14th after worship for the purpose of informing the congregation of the financial situation of the congregation after the first quarter.



 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:

Dean Crooks 724-664-20	
	345
Wendy Hodak 724-664-43	
Gene Hughes 724-543-30)11
Patricia Kirkpatrick 724-525-09	962
Susan Neal 724-763-83	331
Megan Rupp 724-859-13	317
Brendan Swanson 724-525-72	255
John Swanson 724-525-13	381
Richard Thorell 724-349-52	287
Kraig Walker 724-664-30)85
Jill Wranich 724-902-93	389

Mark Your Calendars

April 14	Women's Banquet
April 18-20	Library Book sale in Fellowship Hall
April 28	Youth Sunday
April 30	*SPARK* Event for kids
May 5	Youth Lasagna Fundraiser
May 5	Spring Concert
May 19	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
May 21	*SPARK* Event for kids
June 2	Graduate Sunday
June 10	Vacation Bible School - Carnival
June 23	Over 80 Banquet
July 8-12	NALC Youth Camp
July 15-17	NALC- Elementary Camp
July 22-26	Nexus

"The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives."

—Brennan Manning

Kids and Youth April 2024

Annual Kids Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 30th 12-1:00pm Toddler-5th Grade Hear the Easter Story, Make some Egg-cellent Crafts, and HUNT some Eggs!!!



AT St. Johns Kittanning

April 30th, 2024 6:15-7:30pm 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!

Spark Dates:

April 30th, May 21st

Text SPARK to 724 276 5321 for weather updates, announcements and reminders!

Register at

www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning.com



Family Skate Night May 3rd 6:30-9:30pm \$6 at the Skate Castle!

Youth Group

SUNDAY APRIL 7TH: YOUTH GROUP 6:30-8

SUNDAY APRIL 14TH: NO YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP SOUP SALE!
DURING THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE
APRIL 18TH & 19TH

SUNDAY APRIL 21ST: YOUTH GROUP AFTER CHURCH

SUNDAY APRIL 28TH: YOUTH SUNDAY
YOUTH TO HELP LEAD WORSHIP
PASTOR WILL BE CONTACTING YOU

ISPIRARE DAY/TIME TBA

MAY: NALS SEMINARIANS COMING TO YOUTH GROUP TO VISIT!

IN-TENTS LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP





- Thank you to Frank Baker, Juanita & Rick John for the homemade sauerkraut for the Habitat Luncheon.
- Many hands made light work for the Habitat Luncheon as well: Robert, Rick and Juanita John, Jack and Debbie Griffin, Connie McMaster, Nick & Jill Wranich, Tammy Fleeger, The Bouch bunch, Karen Waugaman, Michelle Kozlowski, Susan Neal, Rebecca Veith.
- Thank you to the praise band for helping lead early worship on March 3rd and 24th. You are all such a blessing to St. John's!
- Huge "HEARTFELT" Thank you to the Run With Heart Foundation and Tabitha Bowser, Lauren and Vicki for donating your time and knowledge for an Excellent CPR Training Class and Certifications for our Youth Group and St. John's Members! What amazing dedication to saving lives that you share with others!
- Thank you to the Bowser Family, The Wranich Family, The Bouch Family, Robert John, and the Smith Girls for your help with set up, tech, and/or kitchen! Thank you to Juanita Sams and Tammy Fleeger for donating items for crafts for the Easter Egg Hunt!
- Thank you to the following people for your help with SPARK on March 19th, Tammy Fleeger, Marve Gaiser, Sue Bain, Donna Livengood, Wendy, Gracie and Brody Hodak, Mollie Bouch, Cassidy Smith, Jamie and Noelle Smoyer, Colvin Adkins and Zayne Strausser.
- Thank you to everyone who donated food for SPARK, Amber Zurn, Patty Kirkpatrick, Erica Kirckpatrick, Tammy Fleeger, Sue Bain, & Brandy Kozlosky,
- Thank you to Donna Livengood for helping with Sunday School in my absence—Julie.
- Thank you to everyone who has donated crafts, trinkets, items, eggs, candy and monetary donations for our Easter Egg Hunt! It is VERY much appreciated!
- More Easter thank yous in the May newsletter.
- We had a successful Men's Banquet with thanks due to Alan & Betty Mitchell, Connie McMaster, Jack and Deb Griffin, Deb, Bill, Molly & Emily Bouch, Jill, Nick and Jerah Wranich, Amy and

- Steve Repak, Keith Livengood, Tim Marasco, Rose & Emil Debnar, Amber Zurn, Juanita Sams, Marve Gaiser, Pastor Johnson, Rick, Juanita and Robert John, Roger Mechling, Denny Blose (Worthington Lions), Kay & Richard Thorell, Tammy Fleeger, Linda Howlett, Dean Crooks, Tim Adkins.
- Thanks to the following persons who helped with the Funeral Luncheon for Christine Schall: Debbie Griffin, Tammy Fleeger, Linda Charley, Cheryl Mechling, Betty Mitchell, Charlie Bleakney, Rose Debnar, Carol Runninger, Karen Waugaman, Lynda Howlett, Janet Means, Nancy Johnson, Nancy Pierce, Julie Smith, Colin Toy, Donna Livengood, Barbara Heilman
- To our church family, we thank you for your prayers, cards, memorial donations, and support the day of Christine Schall's funeral. A special thank you to Pastor Johnson for being there for us, and to our wonderful kitchen team for serving a delicious meal to many friends and family.
 —Blair & Mary Dawson
- To Karen Waugaman, Gene Hughes, Marve Gaiser, Mike and Brian and Pastor for stripping palms for Palm Sunday.
- ➤ To Frank Baker, Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Dean Crooks, David Lindeman, Rebecca Veith, Clair Roudebush, Keith Livengood, Pastor Johnson, Scottie, Mike and Brian for cooking, cleaning up after and leading the Men's Breakfast.
- ➤ To Juanita Sams and Susan Mentch for providing Fellowship Hour Coffee Cakes.

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.



Children's Hour is every Wednesday **and Thursday** from 9:30a.m. until 11:00 a.m. NO Children's Hour the week of April 7th



- 2 Sandy Hellam, Chase Steiner
- 3 Joshua Olinger, Landon Kirkpatrick
- 4 Kurt Zimmerman
- 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
- 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 Edward Leard, Allison Ignatz

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



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.



Our February Church Offerings

<u>Offerings</u>	Feb <u>Receipts</u>	Feb Budget	Year <u>To-Date</u>	Budget <u>To-Date</u>
Current Operating	20,984	26,887	37,912	53,774
Benevolence	1,326	3,333	2,881	6,667
Capital Campaign	2,036	1,762	3,729	3,524

Current Account	Income	Expenses	Gain/ -Loss
Current Month	20,984	25,631	-4,647
Year to Date	37,912	49,608	-11,695

God's generosity is both perfect and complete in every way.

You can't outgive God.



Our February Worship Attendance

February	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
1st Sunday in Feb	99	111	
2 nd Sunday in Feb	37(E) ? (L)	46 (E) 61 (L)	
3 rd Sunday in Feb	40 (E) ? (L)	36(E) 81(L)	
4 th Sunday in Feb	94	115	
ASH WEDNESDAY		87	
February Average	96	112	



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Kittanning Riverfront Amphitheater.

What the world and our nation most need now
is our prayers!



Women's Banquet
Sunday - April 14, 2024
12:30 PM, Meal at 1pm
Oh for the love of Aprons!
Inviting all the ladies - wear an apron, bring one that is
"special or sentimental" to

share your memories! Each is unique and beautiful with loads of history in their stains~ Just as Jesus washed us free of sin/stains, we need to REMEMBER WE ARE CLEAN and beloved!

Join us as we bond over the love of aprons and memories old and new! Many of us remember our moms, grandmothers or other important women in our lives wearing these. AND they are coming back into style.

We will be having "old fashioned foods" to celebrate the nostalgia along with the aprons. A variety of cold salads on lettuce, Jello salads in molds, tea sandwiches and Poke cakes Lemonade, hot tea, coffee are included.

Return this flier to the church office or in the offering plate with an envelope marked: Ladies Banquet by

April 10 or mail to the church office.

Cost is \$8.00/each Ages 10 and under free.

•	Name:
•	Phone:
•	Number attending:adultschildren 10 and under
•	Total enclosed \$
•	* Food allergy information:

Collecting clean, "used", & label removed(personal info) **Prescription bottles**.

We will be making a craft at the women's banquet in April to be used in the lemon ministry. Please place in the boxed marked Women's craft in the Gathering Space.



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 1, 2024 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

Kalie's Cupboard

April Showers Bring May Flowers

However, nothing is fresh & growing

vet



Most recently St John's has assisted someone with diabetic food needs as well as food & housing insufficiency through Katie's cupboard.

Would you be able to assist us with "sugar free" or low carb items? Another need would be paper plates, plasticware and paper cups we can "pack up" as a set. This then is helpful when you are <u>feeding a family with only a microwave and bathroom sink.</u>

Canned meats such as tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, SPAM, salmon, turkey, canned beef, corned beef, canned ham are always appreciated.



Thanks for joining Peter as Christ tasked him.....

"FEED MY SHEEP" John 21:17

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

-Billy Graham



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 7th

Mighty metaphor machine

While moving to a new parish, Rev. Watt A. Hardworker lost his metaphor machine. His friend, Rev. Hesa Goodpastor, wondered how Watt could preach without metaphors. Another pal, Rev. Bloomingwhere I.M. At, remarked, "There isn't enough skill in all of us clergy to preach week after week without some metaphors! The 'Old, Old Story' has been told so often that people tune it out without metaphors to help them hear it afresh." He suggested organizing a metaphor collection to sustain Watt.

Hesa was open to the idea but worried that, with Easter approaching, Watt would be at a total loss. "What a catastrophe, especially starting out in a new church," said Bloomingwhere. "How can the poor pastor possibly preach Easter without any metaphors?"

Hesa added, "No 'butterflies emerging from the cocoon,' no 'awakening of daffodil bulbs after the long winter,' no 'flight of the Phoenix,' no 'resurrection as an image for a fresh start."

"He'll be left with nothing to say but that Jesus arose from the grave," Bloom exclaimed. "Just imagine!"

-Stan Purdum





Heading into the hospital?

If you or a member of your family is hospitalized,

<u>please contact the office</u> @ 724-548-2051. Because of confidentiality issues, the hospitals are not as helpful in notifying us as they once were.

Following the 'Perfect Fool'

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the "foolishness of God" (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, "The life you save may be your own."

"That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell," wrote Buechner. "What God says, on the other hand, is 'The life you save is the life you lose.' In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living."

Buechner continued, "To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion."

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. Consider these stewardship quotes from Christian thinkers:

"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

"Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory."

-Douglas J. Moo, Creation Care

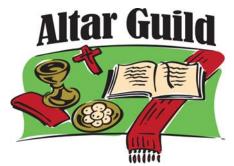


We would LOVE to see **YOU** in person. However,if you are away on vacation or need to watch from elsewhere: We ARE here for you !



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.



Needed for Altar Care:

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

<u>Plastic or Metal coffee cans for altar flowers. 30-to-40-ounce cans are ideal.</u>

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection. This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen, Lifesigns

Spotlight on Benevolence:



<u>Lutheran Military Veterans</u> <u>and Families Ministries</u>

"Serving with Christ's love those who serve"

"We provide free counseling, programs and services to military veterans, contractors and their family members."

Coming home, veterans face many challenges, bearing wounds seen and unseen. Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry is there to help with the unseen wounds, especially the spiritual and moral wounds of war. They work with veterans, those still serving, military contractors, and families (who are often left out).

Now in their twelfth year of ministry, they have never turned anyone away. Based in Ft. Wayne Indiana, they have clients throughout the country, including Hawaii. All of their work is free. There is no charge to any of their clients. They take no government funding whatsoever. They rely solely on gifts like ours.

"We offer training, resources and assistance to congregations across denominational lines and to care providers, groups to equip them with the tools and information they need to assist America's veterans, contractors and their family members."

LMVFM helps veterans, contractors and their families re-new their relationship with God; Reconnect with each other; Re-integrate back into their communities and Re-adjust to life away from the battlefield.

Your benevolence dollars support this ministry.

Acolyte

Welcome Team



April 7

Assisting Minister Becky Swanson (E)

Deb Bouch(L)

Lector Jll Wranich (E)

Charlie Bleakney (L)

Comm John Swanson, Nick Wranich (E)

Jonah Petruschke, Charlie Bleakney, Susan Neal, Mollie Bouch(L)

Gracie Hodak (E)

Kendall Bailey, William Bouch,

Callie and Colvin Adkins (L)

Rupp Family (E)

Bouch Family (L)

Camera Operators Nick Wranich (E)

Bill Bouch (L)

April 14 -

Assisting Minister
Lector
Cheryl Mechling
Acolytes
Ella Fennell
Welcome Team
Camera Operator
Karen Waugaman
Cheryl Mechling
Ella Fennell
The Young family
Keith Livengood

April 21-

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Comm Assistants
Comm Assistants
Nancy Pearce, Keith Livengood
Acolytes
Sara Shaffer
Roger Mechling
Karen Waugaman, Susan Barto,
Nancy Pearce, Keith Livengood
Mitchell Wranich, Lizzie Smoyer,

Camryn and Lucas Bowser
Welcome Team Smovers

Camera Operator Robert John

April 28

Assisting Minister
Lector
Comm
YOUTH
Acolytes
YOUTH
Welcome Team
YOUTH
Camera Operator
YOUTH
Keith Livengood

"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

<u>Altar Guild:</u> Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Charley <u>Money Counters:</u> Dean Crook, Richard Thorell, Patty Kirkpatrick

<u>Ushers</u>: Ed Walker, Kraig Walker, Dean Crooks, Blair Dawson

"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

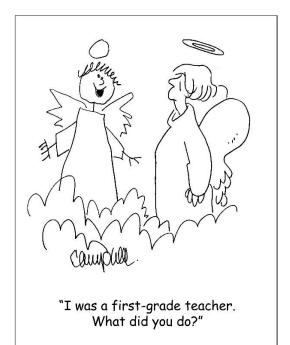
Children's Hour:

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
Secretary
Sexton
Director of Music/Organist
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Sexton
Colin Toy
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



7:00 Spring Concert

April		St. J	ohn's I	Luthera	ın Chui	ch	2024
Sun		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	9:30 Children's Hour 6:00pm Christian Ed 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	4 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter 8:30 Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 6:30 Youth Group	white	8 7:00 Council	9	6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	11:15 Women's Bible Study @ Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	12	13
14 Third Sunday of Easter 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Congregational Meeting 12:30 / 1:00 Womens Banquet		15	16	9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism Youth Soup Sale Library Book Sale	19 Youth Soup Sale Library Book Sale	20 Library Book Sale
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 12:15 Youth Group	white	6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	23	9:30 Children's Hour 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Newsletter mlg 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion YOUTH SUNDAY	white	29	30 SPARK NIGHT 6:15	1	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	White						