
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

218 N. Jefferson St. Kittanning, PA 16201-1324

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May 2024

Christ Is Risen!

CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED *Alleluia*

So What?

God has abundantly blessed us. We worry about how much time we will live. We say things like, "They died too young." But in Christ we have been given eternal life. The devil wants us to imagine scarcity, while God provides abundantly.

I remember growing up in a house with a 60 amp electrical service for our house. We didn't need much electricity because we didn't have many things. Closets were small because you didn't have many clothes. Our one TV was black and white and a full 13 inches diagonal (3 channels plus PBS on UHF).

"God provides food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all I need from day to day," so Luther says in our Small Catechism. The devil always wants us to focus on scarcity while our God has blessed us abundantly.

I can't remember the last time I stood in a bread line that reached around the block. I can't remember the last time I had nothing to wear, or no place to lay my head. The bare necessities of life. Living in the United States we are blessed far beyond our basic needs. The vast majority of us are blessed in ways we take for granted.

Can we say "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 the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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 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*

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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!

1. 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.

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



- Heard that Evangelism Committee is making "how are you doing" phone calls to check on members.
- Heard that the 200th Anniversary Committee is making plans for a yearlong celebration.
- After hearing that the first quarter finances have vastly improved, (see article page 6), decided to approve interviewing for an office secretary.
- Received thank yous 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.
- Approved the use of the building for Head Start graduation ceremonies and reception.

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:

Kyle Kirkpatrick - Vice President	724-954-7366
Dean Crooks	724-664-2015
Wendy Hodak	724-664-4345
Gene Hughes	724-543-3011
Patricia Kirkpatrick	724-525-0962
Susan Neal	724-763-8331
Megan Rupp	724-859-1317
Brendan Swanson	724-525-7255
John Swanson	724-525-1381
Richard Thorell	724-349-5287
Kraig Walker	724-664-3085
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.*

Kids and Youth May 2024

St. John's



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

Castle in Butler!

Bring extra \$ for concessions. Meet there at 6:30. Let Julie know if you need a ride.

**YOUTH GROUP
Lasagna Luncheon
Fundraiser,
After Worship
Sunday, May 5th
Enjoy delicious lasagna and
brownies and salad!**



AT St. Johns Kittanning
**May 21st, 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!
Text SPARK to 724 276 5321 for weather
updates, announcements and
reminders!

YOUTH GROUP

**SUNDAY MAY 5TH YOUTH GROUP LASAGNA
LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY MAY 12TH NO YOUTH GROUP
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**

**SUNDAY MAY 19TH
PENTECOST CONFIRMATION
NO YOUTH GROUP**

**SUNDAY MAY 26TH NO YOUTH GROUP
HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY**

LAST YOUTH GROUP JUNE 2ND

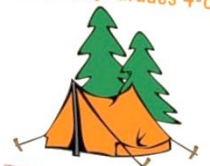
VBS CARNIVAL

JUNE 10-12 6-8PM

IN-TENTS LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP



Youth: Grades 7-12
Elementary: Grades 4-6



Youth: July 8-12, 2024
Elementary: July 15-17, 2024



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



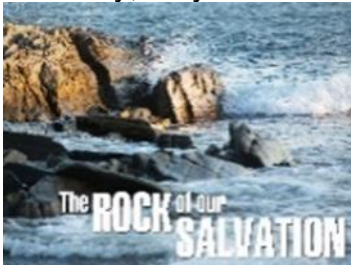
Our March Church Offerings

Offerings	Mar Receipts	Mar Budget	Year To-Date	Budget 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

Rock of our Salvation Worship

Sunday, May 12th 8:30am



Our March Worship Attendance

March	2024	2023
1 st Sunday in March	50(E) 62(L)	104
2 nd Sunday in Mar	93	32(E) 76(L)
3 rd Sunday in March	100	38(E) 83(L)
4 th Sunday in March	*	N/A
5 th Sunday in March	178	
March Average	121	111
Maundy Thursday	88	
Good Friday	55	

* Not available

Mark Your Calendars

May 5	Youth Lasagna Fundraiser
May 5	Spring Concert
May 9	Children's Hour Field Trip
May 19	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
May 21	*SPARK* Event for kids
June 1	8am Worker Bee Work day Landscaping
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



Women's Bible Study

will be held at King's restaurant on Thursday, May 9th at noon. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery rosatrix_38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



Thank You's for May 2024

- ♥ Thank you to Mary Jane Dawson, Betty and Alan Mitchell, Ruth Ann Hankey, Linda Charley, Tammy Fleeger and Janice Smith with the April newsletter mailing.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Katie's Cupboard Ministry @ St. John's.

So many folks contributed to such a wonderful afternoon. Many Thanks to:

Our guest speaker: Timi Plyter for the gift of her book "A mustard seed of Faith" and her engaging witness to our ladies in attendance.

The men who served the meal: Bill Bouch, Richard Thorell, Blair Dawson, Mark Hankey, Jack Griffin, Colvin Adkins, Paul Whachter and Pastor Johnson.

Those who decorated and set tables: Alan and Betty Mitchell, Mary Jane Dawson and Mark Hankey, Connie McMaster, Deb Griffin

The ladies who assisted with food prep and donations to our feast: Sharon Hankey, Connie McMaster, Deb Griffin, Toni Smail, Mona Bouch, Debbie Bouch, Abby Klaar, Linda Howlett, Mary Jane Dawson, Tammy Fleeger

- ♥ 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 Donna Livengood and Megan Rupp for teaching Sunday School! And helping fill in, as I was on vacation in April.
- ♥ Thank you to our Soup Makers for our Youth Group Fundraiser...Christy Duncan, Sharon Febinger, Patty Kirkpatrick, Jill Wranich, & Amber Zurn.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who supports our Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!
- ♥ Thank you to Nick Wranich, Steve Repak and Pastor Johnson for hanging the shroud on the cross.
- ♥ To Juanita Sams and Susan Mentch for providing Fellowship Hour Coffee Cakes.
- ♥ Thank you to the Maundy Thursday altar strippers: Blair Dawson, Dean Crooks, Nick Wranich, Steve Repak, Keith Livengood, Mark Hankey & Brock Hodak.
- ♥ Thank you to 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, Bill, Deb, Mollie & William

Bouch, Mona Bouch and Pastor Johnson for decorating the sanctuary.

- ♥ Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter brunch: Jack & Deb Griffin, Connie McMaster, Tammy Fleeger
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten men's breakfasts: Frank Baker, Clair Roudebush, Steve Repak, Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Rob McCluskey, Dean Crooks & Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Crooks, Colvin & Callie Adkins & Pastor Johnson for decorating the outside cross.
- ♥ Thank you to Blair Dawson & Steve Repak for operating the lighting during worship.
- ♥ Thank you to Juanita Sams for baking the delicious coffee cakes for fellowship hour each Sunday.

Fellowship Hour

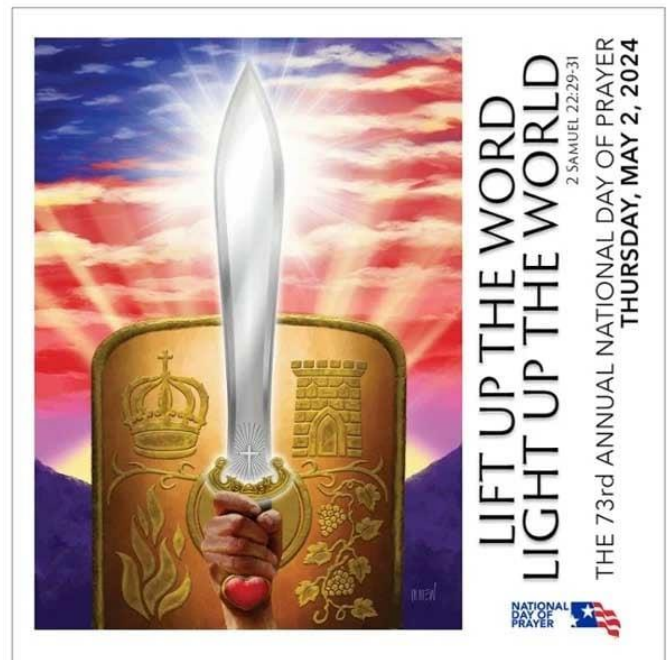


A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP WILL BE PROVIDED EACH SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP IN THE GATHERING SPACE.

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.



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!*



Financial Update: First Quarter

Celebration

It was reported at the Congregational Meeting on April 14 that we finished the quarter \$10,178 in the black, (offerings exceeded expenses). 9 out of 10 times in the past 10 years, we finished with a deficit, (2021 was the exception). Last year, for example, we were over \$26,000 in the hole.

We normally finish March having dug ourselves a hole that is difficult to climb out of. This year we celebrate a good solid finish!

Thank you for your generosity.

Caution

If we give our offerings like we have the past few years, we will finish April through November losing about \$5,000 per month (expenses exceeding offerings). Then, December will be a frantic catching up and begging for end of year offerings in order to break even by December 31st.

That is, IF WE GIVE AS WE HAVE.

Challenge

The challenge is to stay ahead of expenses through each of us giving more to God, (in proportion to how we have been blessed). We are climbing out of a hole we have dug for ourselves these past 10 years. The good news is that God has blessed us and will continue to bless us, both as individuals and as a congregation.

In 2023 136 households gave a total of \$342,754.78 to the Mission and Ministry of St. John's. That averages \$2,520.26 per household. If each were a tither, that means each household earns on average, \$25,202.60. The Armstrong County annual household median income for 2022 (latest available) is \$61,011.00. If that average held for the members of St. John's that would mean 136 households giving a combined \$829,749.60.

The Bottom line is this:

We do not give to budgets or deficits

We give to God.

God asks us to say "Thank You" to Him by returning a tenth of what he has first given us. And There are Two Key Principles to remember: First Fruits giving, and Proportionate giving:

First Fruits giving

means that we do not give God the leftovers. We give to God first out of our paychecks, putting God first in our financial lives.

Proportionate Giving

Means that we return a significant percentage of our income back to God in order to say "thank you" for the blessings He has first given us.

We Give to God

- To say "Thank You" for what He has first given us.
- In confidence and trust that God will continue to bless us in the future—we do not have to hold on to everything we have knowing that the Lord will provide.

Practical ways to increase giving

- Be a consistent giver.
- Take a step forward. Set a goal of becoming a tither and make a financial plan to achieve that goal. Take a step toward that goal.

We have this Treasure

- A Treasure that has been entrusted to us 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

- Today is a day 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.



**Attention Gardeners
and Worker Bees**



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.

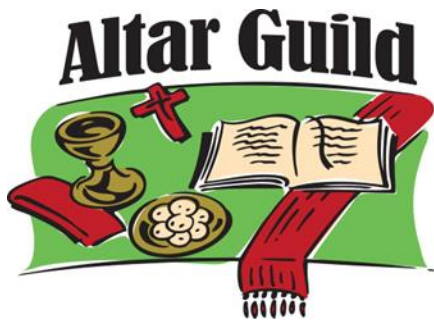
Please contact Sharon Febinger @ 724-543-2413 or text 724-859-5649. Thank you



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 for 8:30am Service Sundays.



Needed for Altar Care:

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



Katie's Cupboard



MAY DAY! MAY DAY!

Summer is quickly approaching and our community's children will become ever increasingly food insufficient.

Please prayerfully consider "quick easy microwaveable meals (some are latch-key kids) and juice boxes to supplement our cupboard. As always canned meats such as tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, SPAM, salmon, turkey, canned beef, corned beef, canned ham are always appreciated.

Breakfast cereals, Nutri-grain bars and drinks such as Capri Sun are encouraged.



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

"FEED MY SHEEP" John 21:17

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."



Lest We Forget

Memorial Day May 27 2024
Wear A Poppy for remembrance

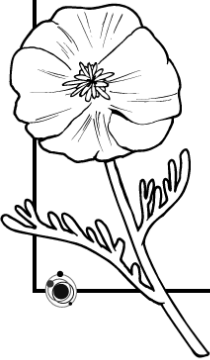
In Flanders' Fields

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 Flanders' 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 Flanders' 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.



We have a New 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. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Smith.



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 15 & 16th!



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.

MAY

May 5

Assisting Minister	Debbie Bouch
Lector	Lori Young
Comm Assistants	Brett & Megan Taylor
	Noelle & Jamie Smoyer
Acolytes	Anna and Stella Venesky,
	Ella Fennell Quinn Kellner
Welcome Team	Youth
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

May 12

Assisting Ministers	Julie Smith (E)
	Karen Waugaman (L)
Lectors	Rich Farah (E)
	Keith Livengood (L)
Comm Assistants	Becky & John Swanson (E)
Acolytes	Noelle Smoyer(E)
	Bill Bouch (L)
Welcome Teams	Swansons(E)
	Griffin and Adkins Family (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich
	Keith Livengood

May 19 Pentecost & Confirmation

Assisting Minister	Gene Hughes
Lector	Confirmands
Comm Assistants	Tabitha Bowser, Amber Zurn
Acolytes	Camryn Bowser Lizzie Smoyer,
	Callie and Colvin Adkins
Welcome Team	Wranich Family
Camera Operator	Robert John

May 26 Festival of the Holy Trinity

Assisting Minister	Rose Montgomery
Lector	Nancy Pierce
Comm Assistants	Charley Bleakney, Robert John,
	Karen Waugaman, Susan Barto
Acolyte	Emily Bouch, Marlee Smith
	Kendall Bailey, Brody Hodak
Welcome Team	Jazwinskis and Baileys
Camera Operator	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

MAY

Altar Guild: Megan Rupp, Lori Young

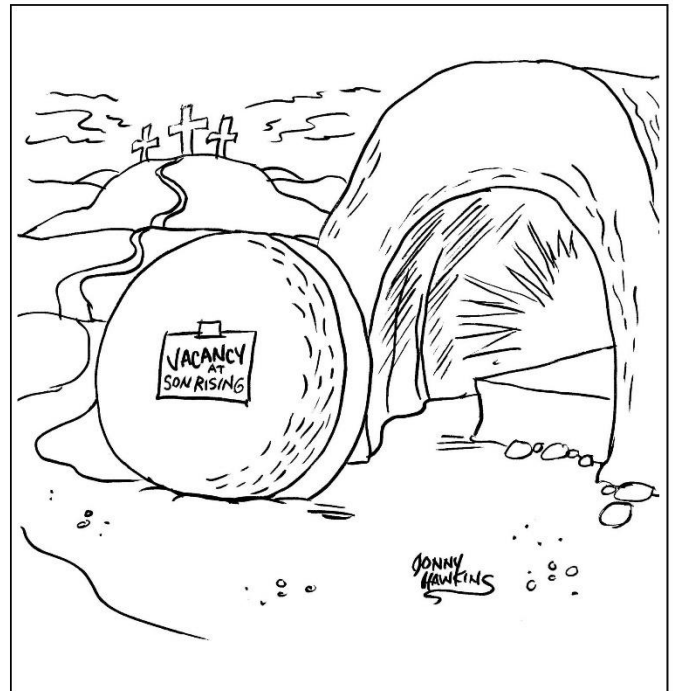
Money Counters: Kraig Walker, John Swanson, Susan Neal

Ushers: Ed and Kraig Walker, Brock and Brody Hodak

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	to be determined
Sexton	Colin Toy
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.”



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> May St. John's Lutheran Church 2024 </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion YOUTH SUNDAY			1 9:30 Children's Hour	2 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism 6:00 National Day of Prayer - Amphitheater	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter White 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Communion <i>*after church Youth Lasagna Dinner come join us!</i> 7:00 Spring Concert	6 Children's hour Zoo field trip 7:00 Property	7 1:00pm Evangelism Mtg	8 9:30 Children's Hour No Choir	09 9:30 Children's hour field trip 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism Noon Womens Bible Study Kings Restaurant	10	11
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter White 8:30 Worship Communion 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Happy Mother's Day!	13 7:00 Council	14	15 9:30 Children's Hour 6:00pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	16 9:30 Children's Hour 7:00 Confirmation Rehearsal	17	18
19 PENTECOST RED CONFIRMATION 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Communion Reception after Worship	20 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship/Music	21 6:15PM SPARK EVENT	22 6:15 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior choir	23 1:00 Newsletter mailing	24	25
26 Holy Trinity - white 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28	29	30	31	1 8:00 Property Work Day