
St. John's Way, Truth and Life

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

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January 2025

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



**GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."**

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

"Think glorious thoughts of God—and serve Him with a quiet mind."

—Mother Janet Stuart

I often live a small petty life. I focus on the small and unimportant. I let little things bother me. I worry about things that in six months won't even be remembered because they are too small. Yet those too small things have a way of consuming my time and attention—they really, from this perspective, seem so overwhelmingly huge.

As always, and especially beginning the new year, we need to lift up our hearts and minds to our glorious and gracious God. Life is so much bigger than we are. We have a God greater than our problems. We have a God greater than our enemies. We have hope because we know that God wins in the end. God is always greater!

Worship is the weekly reminder. We gather as the people of God each filled with the worries of the day. We lay our sins and our worries down before the Lord as He cleanses us and reminds us that "He's got this." The glorious thoughts of God are so much greater than anything going on within our lives. The problems of life are temporary and therefore inconsequential. The realities of God are eternal.

200 years of being a faithful witness to what in life is important. 200 years of proclaiming our Glorious God. We are not done celebrating. We are inviting back Sons and Daughters of the congregation who have become pastors to lead worship. We are privileged to hear from them about our Glorious God—the light of Christ continues to spread!

See you in Worship,

Pastor Johnson

Five Elected at the December Congregational Meeting

Four members were elected for a three-year term to Congregational Council at the December Congregational Meeting. They are:

Three Year Terms:

Bill Bouch

Elijah Holt

Christopher Choncek

Ryan Shafer

We also thank our outgoing members of St. John's Congregational Council for their service to:

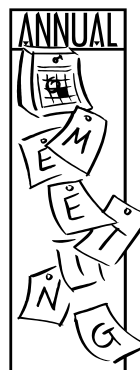
Dean Crooks

Megan Rupp

Kyle Kirkpatrick

Kraig Walker

At the December Congregational Meeting the Congregation also voted to designate the 2023 New Church Building Fund interest for the Capital Campaign.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Scheduled for
January 26th, 2025

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 26th. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2025 and elect an endowment trustee.

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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."**

Mark Your Calendars	
January 26	Congregational Meeting
February 9	Kathy Baker to Lead Worship
March 5	Ash Wednesday
April 20	Easter
May 4	Spring Concert
June 8	Pentecost Sunday (Confirmation)

*Real Christmas joy
is knowing Jesus*



- Set the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 26th after worship.
- Noted that Angela Clever has successfully completed her probationary period of 90 days. Pastor reported that she is an excellent addition to St. John's staff.
- The National NALC Convocation is August 3-8, 2025 is in Pittsburgh. We need 3 delegates. Gene Hughes volunteered to be one. Additionally, we will need about a dozen volunteers to help staff the Convocation welcome and registration centers.
- 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.
- Received Thank You note from Elizabeth Cramer for the use of the sanctuary for her students' piano recital.

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:

Bill Bouch -	724-859-0359
Chris Choncek	724-664-6947
Wendy Hodak	724-664-4345
Elija Holt	860-534-0023
Gene Hughes	724-543-3011
Patricia Kirkpatrick	724-525-0962
Susan Neal	724-763-8331
Ryan Shafer	724-859-2749
Brendan Swanson	724-525-7255
John Swanson	724-525-1381
Richard Thorell	724-349-5287
Jill Wranich	724-902-9389



EPIPHANY...

...means to "make manifest" which means "to show." The wise men coming from afar was the first epiphany to the world. The season of Epiphany is one centered on evangelism: making Christ known throughout the world. Since the day of Pentecost this has been our task and job #1.

**Children and Youth
January 2025**

SPARK
January 21st 2025

6:15-7:30pm
Preschool-6th Grade
COST: FREE!

Dinner, Bible Story,
Winter Games, Fun, Crafts and More!
Parents, stay or run some errands.
NEXT Spark Date: Feb. 18th 2025
Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321
for weather updates,
announcements and reminders
REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT
www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning

**Friday Jan 3rd- Saturday Jan 4th:
Youth Group Lock IN!
8:00pm-5:00am**

Sunday Jan. 5th: No Youth Group

**Sunday Jan. 12th:
Youth Group 6:30-8pm**

Sunday Jan. 19th: No Youth Group

**YOUTH WINTER RETREAT!
QUAKE 2025!
"ENOUGH"**
Friday Jan. 24th – Sunday Jan. 26th
See Julie if interested in attending

**YOUTH
LOCK-IN**

Friday Jan. 3rd
8:00pm-
Saturday Jan. 4th
5:00am
Bowling, Pizza,
Movies, Gross Games,
Prizes, Bodybody, and
MORE!

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

PITTSBURGH

JANUARY 24-26, 2025

MUSICIAN
LYNN
STONEKING

SPEAKER
TERRENCE
TALLEY

ENOUGH
JOHN 3:16

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT
PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."
JOHN 3:16**

QUAKEEVENT.COM





January

- 1 Joe Campbell, Alan Mitchell
- 3 Carole Cable, Alice Stitt, Julie Stitt
- 4 Susan Deakin
Carroll Klingensmith
- 6 Becki Baillie, Ashleigh Choncek
- 7 Kim Lasher
- 10 Kevin Krauser
- 11 Debbie Zimmerman
- 12 Clint Erdley
- 13 Sue Beranty
- 15 Corey Chasse
- 16 Don Gariglio, Wyatt Lager
- 17 Sally Guz, Jon Pierce, Matthew Smith, Evan Sharrer
- 18 Edward Walker, Charlesetta Bleakney, Darci Harriger, Brenda Long, Matthew Bowser
- 19 David Bleakney, Justin Long, Colton Gariglio
- 21 Pam Wingard, Amanda Recupero
- 22 Melinda Michaels, Colin Kirkpatrick
- 23 Judy Recupero, Todd Mechling
- 24 Brian Kozlosky, Tyler Heller, Jonathan Pierce Jr., Zachary Wolff, Robert John
- 26 Janet Bowser, Wendy Choncek, Abigail Kirby
- 28 Leah Bish, Rebecca Swanson, Ella Graff
- 29 Kendall Ignatz
- 30 Michael Elder, Dennis Blaney, Jennifer Baker
- 31 Katherine Kiger, Zachary Steiner

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.

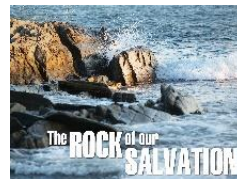
Our November Church Offerings

Offerings	Nov. Receipts	Nov. Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current				
Operating	19,146	26,887	244,344	295,758
Benevolence	1,523	3,333	17,376	36,667
Capital Campaign	2,129	1,762	31,671	19,381
Current Account	Income	Expenses		Gain/-Loss
Current Month	19,146	29,113		-9,967
Year to Date	244,344	263,471		-19,127

ATTENDANCE

Our November Worship Attendance

November	2023	2024
1 st Sunday in Nov	63(E) 70(L)	NA
2 nd Sunday in Nov	102	96
3 rd Sunday in Nov	62(E) 69(L)	94
4 th Sunday in Nov	94	56(E) 72(L)
Average for Nov.	115	106



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday, January 12th



Women's Bible Study

will return at the King's restaurant on **Thursday, January 9th at noon.** Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



Thank You's for December 2024:

- ♥ To Carol Runniger, Rose Montgomery, Mary Jane Dawson, Janice Smith, Ruth Ann Hankey, Betty and Alan Mitchell, Linda Charley, and Julie Smith for helping with the November newsletter mailing.
- ♥ To the praise band for helping lead early worship service December 29th.
- ♥ To our Sunday School teachers for your dedication and love for the children of St. John's!
- ♥ To everyone who continually supports our Children's and Youth ministries at St. John's!!
- ♥ To the praise band for your hard work and commitment to help lead songs for early worship service!
- ♥ To the students at the Evangelical Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten for their donations during the month of December to Katie's cupboard.
- ♥ To Gail Purvis and Lenape Math Class for the donation for Katies Cupboard.
- ♥ For Spark Nov 19th: To: Donna Livengood, Tammy Fleeger, Marve Gaiser, Sue Bain, Angela & Avia Clever, Dan Malark, Darlene & Rich Farah, Wendy & Gracie Hodak, and Ella Keefer for you help!
- ♥ To Rose Debnar, Mary Jane Dawson and Tammy Fleeger for decorating the Gathering Space for Advent/Christmas.
- ♥ To Charlie for polishing the alter vases.
- ♥ To Toni Smail for donating a ham to the kitchen crew.
- ♥ To Mary Jane for putting together the Christmas letter mailing.
- ♥ To Mary Jane for putting the VANCO QR IDs in the pews
- ♥ To the following for bringing Christmas concert reception cookies: Rick & Juanita John, Sandy Duncan, Lynda Howlett, Ralph & Michelle Kozlowski, Mary Jane Dawson, Connie McMaster, Nancy Johnson, Tammy Fleeger, Debbie Griffin, Ruth Anne Hankey, Betty Mitchell, Kay Thorell, Linda Johnson, Cindy Law, Barb Heilman, Mona Bouch.
- ♥ To our Christmas Tree Crew, Bill and Deb Bouch, Keith Livengood and Rachel Flischel, Elijah Holt, Brody Hodak, William Bouch, Dean Crooks, and Kyle Kirkpatrick, and the Kirkpatrick family for donating the Beautiful Tree for our Congregation!
- ♥ To the Christmas tree decorating crew: Susan Barto, Linda Charley, Charlie & Bob Bleakney, Bill, Deb, Mollie, William and Emily Bouch, Linda Charley, Mary Jane & Blair Dawson, Krista & Ella Fennell, Marve Gaiser, , Mark & Sharon Hankey, Susan Neal, Julie, Cassidy & Delaney Smith, Kay & Richard Thorell, Rebecca Veith, Karen Waugaman and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ To our Christmas Pageant Parents... Wendy Hodak, Megan Rupp, Jessica Bailey, and Donna Livengood.
- ♥ To our Pageant Cast: Colvin & Callie Adkins, Gracie Hodak, Kherington Hilty, Ava and Carter Rupp, Kendall and Quinten Bailey, Baylee Kozlosky, Elliette and Isaiah Walker, Cassidy Smith, Noelle Smoyer, and Erik Repak! You all did an awesome job telling the Christmas Story!
- ♥ To the following people for bringing Cookies for the pageant reception, Jessica Bailey, Judy Kozlosky, Nancy Johnson and Susan Mentch, Wendy Hodak, Jacilee Adkins! They were delish!
- ♥ To Dean Crooks for fixing up our Pageant structure!
- ♥ To the Men's Breakfast Cooking Crew: Marve Gaiser, Ken Burkett, Clair Roudebush, and Pastor Johnson.
- ♥ To everyone who helps with the Fellowship Hours after worship!
- ♥ To Brock, Wendy, Brody and Gracie Hodak, Rich and Darlene Farrah, Dean Crooks, Marve Gaiser, and Pastor Johnson for making Advent Candle Logs that were distributed on December 1st.
- ♥ To Tammy Fleeger for Advent Calendars, donation for Spark and Christmas Supplies for the kids!
- ♥ To Nancy Johnson for the Oriental Trading Gift card for the kids!
- ♥ To . . . Wendy Hodak, Donna Livengood, Rich and Darlene Farah, Megan Rupp, Jill Wranich, Angela Clever & Andrea Erhman for donations for our kindness baskets!
- ♥ To the following People who helped with our Spark Christmas EVENT! Tammy Fleeger, Marve Gaiser, Pastor Neal and Ella Fennell, Donna Livengood, Megan, Ava and Carter Rupp, Wendy, Brody and Gracie Hodak, Anna and Stella Venesky, Mollie and Emily Bouch, Marlee And Delaney Smith, What an awesome night! Thanks to all of you for making it special for the kids!
- ♥ To Kay Thorell for playing the piano and organ for Christmas Eve 7pm Service!



DEADLINE

ANNUAL REPORTS

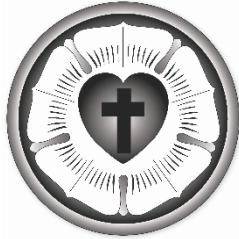
All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers, **please submit your reports to the church office by January 8th.** Our goal is to have the reports ready **2 weeks** prior to the Annual meeting January 26th. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it! If possible, please e-mail your report to:

stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

Pastor's Sunday School Class:
Adult Sunday School
Ambling Along with Abraham

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.



**NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



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.

**January Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, January 18th 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.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

'What are you doing for others?'"

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Katie's Cupboard Supply List

Personal Care Items

- Shampoo/conditioner, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
- Moisturizer, Pads/tampons, Diapers/wipes, Deodorant,

Paper Products

- Paper towels, Toilet paper, Kleenex

Nonperishable Foods

- Peanut butter and jelly in plastic
- Boxed/bagged grains/beans: rice, couscous, quinoa, red beans, white beans
- Pasta: dry pasta, bagged pasta meals, mac n' cheese
- Pasta sauce in plastic, Cereal: cold and hot
- Peanut butter and other snack crackers
- Applesauce, Dried fruits, Granola bars
- Canned complete meals (Dinty Moore, Lasagna, Spaghetti O's)
- Canned vegetables, Canned fruits
- Dry Goods (coffee, hot chocolate, tea, flour, powdered milk, sugar), Cake mixes, cornbread mixes, muffin/pastry mixes
- Canned meats (SPAM, Vienna sausage, tuna, chicken)

We also welcome cash donations so that the Social Ministry Committee can do the shopping for you. Thank you for your support!

Our source of Light

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury,
campus minister in New York City

January

January 5

Assisting Minister	Kay Thorell
Lector	Richard Thorell
Communion	Elijah and Sophia Holt
	Mollie Bouch & Deb Bouch
Acolytes	Gracie and Brody Hodak
	Colvin & Callie Adkins
Welcome Team	The Farahs
Camera Operators	Bill Bouch

January 12

Assisting Ministers	John Swanson (E)	Nancy Pierce (L)
Lectors	Brendan Swanson (E)	Val Lager (L)
Communion Assistants	Jamie and Noelle Smoyer (E)	
Welcome Team	Tammy Fleeger, Marve Gaiser (E)	
	Sue Neal & Ella Fennell (L)	
Acolytes	Ava Rupp (E)	
	Kendall Bailey (L)	
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich (E)	
	Keith Livengood (L)	

January 19

Assisting Ministers	Gene Hughes
Lectors	Charlie Bleakney
Comm Assistants	Tabitha Bowser, Sue Neal
	Karen Waugaman, Nancy Pierce
Acolytes	Ella Fennell, Anna Venesky
	Stella Venesky, Emily Bouch
Welcome team	Donna Livengood & Kherington Hilty
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

January 26

Assisting Minister	Sara Shafer
Lector	Roger Mechling
Acolyte	Ashlynn Zurn
Welcome team	The Youngs & Rupps
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

January

Altar Guild: Connie McMaster, Debbie Griffin

Money Counters: Gene Hughes, Jill Wranich, Elija Holt

Ushers: Ed Walker, Kraig Walker, Dean Crooks, Mark Hankey

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	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."

"I do not at all understand the mystery of God's grace — only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us."

—Anne Lamott



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> January St. John's Lutheran Church 2025 </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 First Sunday after Christmas <small>White</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	30	31	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3 8:00 Youth Group Lock-in	4
5 Second Sunday after Christmas <small>White</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	6	7	8 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	9 9:30 Children's Hour 12:00 Womens Study at Kings 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	10	11 9:00 Finance Committee
12 Baptism of our Lord <small>White</small> 8:30 Worship: Rock of our Salvation 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 6:30 – 8:00 pm Youth Group	13 7:00 Council	14	15 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	16 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	17	18 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany <small>Green</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion	20 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music	21 1:00 Newsletter mailing 6:15 Spark	22 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:00 PJ's Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	23 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	24 Youth Leave for Quake Youth Event From St. John's 4:30 PM	25 Youth at Quake Youth Event
26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany <small>Green</small> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship Congregational Meeting Youth Return From Quake Event Around 12:30 PM	27	28	29 9:30 Children's Hour 5:30 New Bells 6:30 Senior Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	30 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45 Catechism 7:00 Catechism	31	1