St. John's Way, Truth and Life

218 N. Jefferson St. Kittanning, PA 16201-1324 Office: 724-548-2051, and 724-543-4301
Carl A. Johnson, Pastor, home: 724-548-5512 Web Site: http/stjohnskittanning.org e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

February 2020

The Month of Love

February is the month of love. Valentine's day, for those who do not know it, is February 14th. It is a day that focuses on romantic love.

Valentine's day did not start out that way. Valentine was a Christian during Roman times who went to the lions rather than deny Christ. It is Christian Love which typifies Valentine.

But what is Christian Love?
1 John 4:7-12 says this about love:
7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Christ came to love the unlovable. That is my only hope. I am often unlovable. The miracle of love is that I am loved often in spite of myself. That is also the mystery of God's love for us.

The mystery of God's love describes the sacraments: why would Christ die for the likes of me? Why would Christ claim the likes of me in baptism? Why would Christ come and feed the likes of me in Holy Communion with His Holy and Precious Body and Blood?

The challenge is that He asks us to say "thank you" by loving the unlovable in His name. Anyone can love the lovable. He calls us to the greater challenge.

Christ calls you to be a part of His mission and His ministry through the work of St. John's.

See You in Church,
Pastor Johnson

Habitat for Humanity®

Habitat Luncheon February 16, 2020

St. John's Habitat Luncheon
Social Ministry & Fellowship Committee
will be holding a luncheon
On Sunday, February 16 following worship
to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

Please place your donations to benefit Armstrong County Habitat for Humanity
By marking your offering envelope "Habitat Luncheon" in the space marked "other"
And place in the offering plate during worship.

Our menu is: pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, vegetable, applesauce, cake and beverages.

Fat Sunday "Bruncheon" & Youth Group Fundraiser

Breakfast casserole bake-off and youth fundraiser.
Please join us after worship February 23rd, for a Sausage & Pancake breakfast. Pancakes, sausage, breakfast casserole, fruit and more!
Vote for your favorite casserole. Come support the youth. Funds raised support youth retreats & summer trips.

Table of Contents

Page 2 Council Highlights, Ash Wednesday
Page 3 Children's and Youth Activities
Page 4 Birthdays, Finance, Attendance
Page 5 Thank You's, Thank You Nancy Cerutti
Page 6 Men's Banquet, Benevolence Spotlight
Page 7 Worship Leaders & WNALC meetings
Page 8 Calendar

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

The Ash Wednesday Communion Service will be held on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. This is the beginning of our Lenten journey. Please plan to attend this meaningful service of ashes and Holy Communion as we embark together on our Lenten Disciplines.

Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
Fast from fear, and feast on faith.
—The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23

Mark Your Calendars

February 16	Habitat Luncheon
February 23	Fat Sunday Brunch
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 15	Men's Banquet
April 12	Easter
April 26	Bible Bowl: Ezra/Nehemiah
May 3	Spring Concert
May 16	Mother Daughter Brunch
May 31	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 7	Graduate Recognition
June 14	Over 80 Dinner
July 6 – 8	NALC Elementary Camp (Gr. 4-6)
July 13 – 17	NALC Youth Camp (Grades 7-12)
July 31-Aug. 2	Folk Festival
Aug 5-7	NALC National Convocation
August 16	Church Picnic
September 13	Rally Day
September 27	Progressive Workshop Luncheon
October 27	Reformation

- Elected Pastor Johnson as President, Ryan Shafer as Vice-President, and Nick Wranich as Secretary of Council.
- Approved recommending to the January 26th Congregational Meeting the proposed budget.
- Approved Lent be designated as a time of "Spiritual Renewal and Recommitment to the Lord." All regular committee and council meetings will be canceled during Lent and Bible Study or Worship will be provided with the goal of every member participating in at least one Bible Study and every member recommitting to worship regularly.
- Heard that the joint meeting of Council Representatives and Trustees voted to spend the 2019 Endowment Fund Interest as follows:

Evangelism Initiative	$2,500.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	$1,500.00
Campus Ministry—Pittsburgh	$500.00
Campus Ministry—IUP	$500.00
Total Disbursed:	$5,000.00

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

Bill Bouch	724-859-0359
Jack Griffin	814-275-2735
Mark Hankey	724-783-6004
Brock Hodak	724-664-3652
Rick John	724-297-5319
Keith Livengood	724-664-4063
Jarrod Olinger	724-859-3487
Jacob Rupp	724-579-8774
Ryan Shafer	724-543-4578
Janice Smith	724-548-8557
Nick Wranich	724-548-5121
Lori Young	724-954-2013

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

Got love?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thank you's are in the Thank you portion of the Newsletter

Youth Group
WINTER OYLMPICS
6-12th grade
Sunday February 2nd
6-8pm
Power-Up Dinner Included
Toilet Brush Hockey Old vs Young
Marshmallow Dodgeball
Volleyball Swivel Chair Slalom
And more

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

Feb. 7-9
CRANBERRY MARRIOT
YOUTH 6-12TH GRADE
$35 DEPOSIT DUE JAN. 8TH
TOTAL COST: $100/Student
(Non-members $150)

TUESDAY YOUTH GROUP
TUESDAY FEB. 18TH
4:00-5:30PM
TACO TUESDAY
GAME SHOW ROUND II

FEB. 23rd AFTER WORSHIP
IS OUR FAT SUNDAY BRUNCH YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER!

Breakfast

Breakfast Casserole Bakeoff!
ENTER TO WIN THE PRIZED TROPHY

Faith Girlz Sing!

We will be using our voices
and smiles
to sing at
Local nursing Homes.
Tuesday Feb. 11th.
We will meet at the church
at 6pm.

FAMILY BOWLING EVENT

AT THE C.U. CLUB
FRIDAY FEB. 21ST
6:00-9PM
BRING A DISH TO SHARE
EVERYONE WELCOME!

SUN. FEB. 2ND: YOUTH GROUP WINTER GAMES, POWER UP DINNER 6-12TH GRADE 6:30-8PM
SUN. FEB 2ND: SOUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER, AFTER WORSHIP
FEB. 7-9TH: YOUTH GROUP QUAKE RETREAT, CRANBERRY
TUES. FEB. 11TH: FAITH GIRLS, VISIT NURSING HOMES
TUES FEB. 18TH: YOUTH GROUP 4-5:30 AFTER SCHOOL, PIZZA PARTY
FRIDAY FEB. 21st: FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT 6-9PM
SUN. FEB. 23RD: FAT SUNDAY FUNDRAISER, AFTER WORSHIP, YOUTH TO HELP.

YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY DURING LENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS…
BIBLE BOWL SUN. APRIL 26TH
EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

1 Sam Bowser, Jr.
4 Samantha Pyle, Payton Smail
5 Elodie Round
6 Alyssa Hankey
7 Mark Hankey, Jill Wranich
8 Jason Debnar
..9 Amy Merryman, Cassidy Smith, Delaney Smith
12 Linda Olinger, Kylie Zurn
14 Benjamin Swanson, Amelia Koeller
15 Richard Smail, Jr., Christina Hilty
16 Andrea Hilty
17 John Graff, Jessica Arnette, Nancy Johnson,
18 Kent Walker
19 Natalie Reitano
21 Erica Kirkpatrick
23 Mathias Koeller
24 Mary Abate, Dirk Ahlgrim, Ian Fleeger, Melody Slater, Gracie Hodak, Theodore Round
25 Mary Dawson, Hillary Schultze
26 Sara Shafer
27 Patrick Febinger

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

Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

You can now make a contribution to St. John's 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.

Our Dec. Church Offerings

Offerings	Dec. Receipts	Dec. Budget	Year To-Date	Budget To-Date
Current Operating	48,836	23,884	243,420	286,614
Benevolence	3,125	3,333	20,294	40,000
Capital Campaign	3,605	4,768	258,562	57,216

	Income	Expense	Gain/ (Loss)
Current Month	48,836	29,290	19,546
Year to Date	243,420	273,281	-29,861

We began 2019 with a deficit in the Current Account of $66,000. We ended the year with offerings $29,000 behind expenses, which means we begin 2020 with a larger deficit of $95,000. This is very challenging news…

There is Good News: because of some cost savings in utilities and health insurance, we were able to give the staff a cost of living increase and still not increase the budget.

Challenging News: Because we begin 2020 again with a deficit in the Current Account, every member needs to give prayerful consideration to increasing their giving.

Our December Worship Attendance

	2018	2019
1st Sunday in Dec.	140	136
2nd Sunday in Dec.	53 (E), 94 (L)	50 (E), 101 (L)
3rd Sunday in Dec.	138	100
4th Sunday in Dec.	184	170
5th Sunday in Dec.	116	102
Average for Dec	145	132
Christmas Eve -early	180	192
Christmas Eve - late	96	69

Thank You

- To Mary Jane Dawson & Ruth Ann Hankey for preparing the February newsletter for mailing.
- Thank you to Donna Livengood, Amy Pomaybo, Matt Smith, and Pastor Johnson for driving and Matt and Erica Bowser chaperoning our Lock In.
- Thank you to Donna Livengood for donating homemade soup for our lock in dinner.
- Thank you to Donna Livengood for helping with mailings for Children and youth and for helping with the costumes for the pageant and cleaning up the room.
- Thank you to Carol Boarts, Tammy Fleeger, Connie McMaster, Louise Baker, & Donna Livengood for helping and donating to Fireflies.
- Thank you to Connie McMaster, Rob, Mary Jane Dawson and Naomi Smith for helping in the office.
- Thank you to Lynda Howlett and Ginny Brown for providing Isaiah Walker's Baptism reception.
- Thank you to Alyssa Hankey for painting the beautiful Noah's Ark mural in the Kindergarten Room.
- Thank you to Alice Stitt, Lynda Howlett, Amy Pomaybo, Megan Rupp, Nancy Cerutti and Jennifer Shamberger for providing the Mural Dedication reception.
- To Jack Griffin for helping with first communion class snacks.
- To Keith Livengood, Bill Bouch, Nick Wranich, Blair Dawson and Pastor Johnson for working on the internet streaming project.

"Lord God, before you formed me in my mother's womb, you knew me! Put your words not only into my mouth but into my heart forever. Amen."

CHURCH MUSIC NOTES

A belated thanks to all who assisted the music ministry with the Christmas Concert and throughout Advent and Christmas.
We are so blessed to have the participation and support from so many here at St Johns!

NEW BELL RINGERS NEEDED! Can you help us?
We have an immediate need for
2 bell ringers in the Sr. Bell Choir.
We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and will be starting to prepare for the Spring Concert.
Please see me if you would like more information about joining our group. thank you!

Rebecca Veith
Organist/ Director of Music

Nancy Cerutti Resigns

Nancy Cerutti has resigned her position as Lay Assistant to the Pastor effective January 31, 2020. She began her ministry with us in June and over the past seven months has helped the office run more efficiently. She has been a whirlwind of energy organizing the scheduling and she has been the embodiment of care and love for many members of the congregation. She has contributed greatly to the committees she has served on.

Thank you, Nancy, for making St. John's a great place!

We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Isaiah Mitchael Walker

St. John's Fantastically Fun February Family Frolicking Bowling Meltdown Party

All Ages Winter Blast

At the C.U. Club
in Ford City

Friday February 21st

6:00-9:00 pm

Everyone bring an appetizer to share…
music, games, bowling, prizes and more!

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

—Abraham Lincoln

CALLING ALL HUNTERS: MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BANQUET HELP NEEDED

For our March Men's Fellowship Banquet, formerly known as the Father/Son dinner, we are having a speaker from the Game Commission.

We would like to serve game, so we are looking for donations of game meats.

Sunday, March 15, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, Kittanning, PA

ALL Men and Boys of St. John's and their guests are invited for this evening of feasting, fellowship and fun!

MENU: Game, Beef, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert.

St. John's Live Broadcast

The St. John's worship service is being broadcast live on the Internet via YouTube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Go to YouTube, and search for St. John's Kittanning. Past worship services are also available.

Lent

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God:* "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

Spotlight on Benevolence:

NALC
North American Lutheran Church

North American Lutheran Church

The NALC is a fast-growing Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, uniting more than 141,000 Lutherans in more than 450 congregations across North America. The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

We are a church family committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC has embraced four core values which shape our common life: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. We are a church centered on the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ, animated by missions and evangelism, grounded in the 2,000-year tradition of Christian faith, and organized chiefly to serve our congregations.

A renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith, the NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

St. John's is a charter member of the NALC. Part of our benevolence offerings go to provide the structure necessary to support us in our mission to serve Christ in Kittanning and throughout the whole world.

Christ Centered Traditionally Grounded
Mission Driven Congregationally Focused

February

February 2

Assisting Minister	Rose Montgomery
Lector	Elizabeth Shafer
Comm. Assistants	Karen Waugaman
	Lisa Neyman
Acolyte	Eva Shafer, Mollie Bouch, Emily Bouch
Ushers	Roger Mechling, Todd Mechling
	Ryan Shafer, Ed Walker
Camera Operator	Keith Livengood

February 9

Assisting Minister	Carol Boarts (E)
	Keith Livengood (L)
Lector	Margherita King (E)
	Cheryl Mechling (L)
Comm. Assistant	Alice Stitt (E)
Acolytes	Benjamin Swanson (E)
	Kaylynn Nemchek (L)
Ushers	Roger Mechling, Todd Mechling
	Ryan Shafer, Ed Walker
Camera Operator	Elizabeth John (E)
	Nick Wranrich (L)

February 16

Assisting Minister	Gene Hughes
Lector	Tyler McMahon
Comm. Assistants	Jeff and Carol Boarts
	Debbie Bouch, Nancy Pierce
Acolytes	Cassidy Smith, Sophia Whiteman
	Ashlynn & Brenna Zurn
Ushers	Roger Mechling, Todd Mechling
	Ryan Shafer, Ed Walker
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

February 23

Assisting Minister	Sara Shafer
Lector	Christine Whiteman
Acolyte	Savannah Purvis
Ushers	Roger Mechling, Todd Mechling
	Ryan Shafer, Ed Walker
Camera Operator	Jeff Boarts

February 26

Assisting Minister	Karen Waugaman
Lector	Lynda Howlett
Comm. Assistants	Becky & John Swanson
	Michelle Kozlowsky, Rose Montgomery
Acolyte	Tyler McMahon, Anna Choncek
	Nesta Adkins, Ashleigh Choncek
Ushers	Roger Mechling, Todd Mechling
	Ryan Shafer, Ed Walker
Camera Operator	Ben Swanson

Altar Guild: Sharon Febinger & Janet Means

Money Counters:
February: Ryan Shafer, Rick John, Lori Young

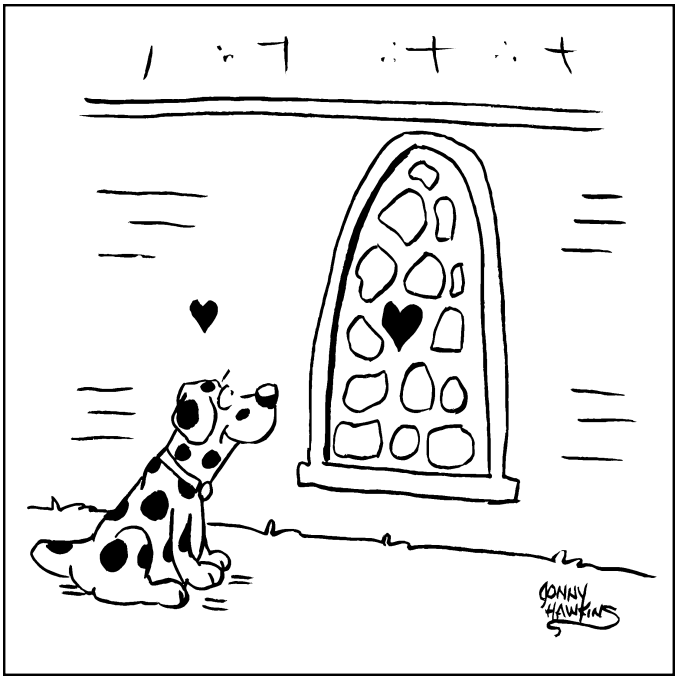
Children's Hour:
February 5 & 6 February 12 & 13
February 19 & 20 February 26 & 27

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff:

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Director of Music/Organist	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer

2020 Altar Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2020 has been posted in the narthex. Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event. The price of altar flowers will be $50.00. There are blue postcards to fill out above the chart. Thank you!



February St. John's Lutheran Church 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 white **Presentation of our Lord** 9:30 Junior Choir 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:00 Evangelism Committee 6:30 Youth Group	**3** 7:30 Fireflies	**4**	**5** 9:30 Children's Hour 6:30 New Bells 7:00 Senior Bells 8:00 Senior Choir	**6** 8:15 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45/7:00 Catechism	**7** 4:30 Youth Leave For Youth Quake 7:00 Fireflies	**8** Youth at Quake
9 green **Fifth Sunday After Epiphany** 8:30 Worship: Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 12:15 Ladies Bible Study	**10** 7:30 Fireflies	**11** 6:00 Faith Girlz	**12** 9:30 Children's Hour 6:30 New Bells 7:00 Senior Bells 8:00 Senior Choir	**13** 8:15 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Children's Hour 12:00 Ladies Bible Study at Craft House 2:45/7:00 Catechism	**14** 7:00 Fireflies	**15**
16 green **Sixth Sunday After Epiphany** 9:30 Youth Choir 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion **12:00 Habitat Luncheon**	**17** 7:00 Council 7:30 Fireflies	**18** 4:00 to 5:30 After School Youth Group	**19** 9:30 Children's Hour 6:30 New Bells 7:00 Senior Bells 8:00 Senior Choir	**20** 8:15 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45/7:00 Catechism	**21** **Newsletter Deadline** 6:00 to 9:00 Family Fun Frolicking Bowling CU 7:00 Fireflies	**22**
23 white **Transfiguration** 9:30 Youth Choir 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Senior Choir 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fat Sunday Brunch	**24** 6:00 Mutual Ministry 7:00 Worship & Music 7:30 Fireflies	**25**	**26** 9:30 Children's Hour **Newsletter** *7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship*	**27** 8:15 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 Children's Hour 2:45/7:00 Catechism	**28** 7:00 Fireflies	**29**