St. John's Lutheran Church
of Highland
311 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Information as of
JUNE/JULY 2025

DATED MATERIAL
Please deliver by May 29, 2025

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit 125

"Making Christ Known"

Volume 6, Number 6 & 7

Email - sjlutheran@verizon.net

phone - 412-364-1606

Saturday Worship:
5:30 p.m. - *Traditional*

SUMMER
Sunday Morning Worship:
8:30 a.m. - *Traditional*
with Livestream
10:00 a.m. - *Contemporary*
with Livestream

www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com

Pastor Kari Smail
Pastor Beth Clementson

JUNE/JULY 2025

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND

Through God All Things Are Possible

"Making Christ Known"

JUNE/JULY 2025 EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BETH

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

- SUMMER BIBLE STUDY
- SEMI ANNUAL MEETING
- COUNCIL MEMBERS TERM EXPIRING

BETTER TOGETHER REFLECTIONS

SOME MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- MEALS-ON-WHEELS
- SUMMER FOOD DRIVE
- FATHER'S DAY
- COMMUNITY PANTRY

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

- BACKYARD ANGELS
- SHELTER MEALS
- NORTH HILLS REFUGEE MINISTRY

SUMMER BINGO CHALLENGE

ACTIVITIES AT ST. JOHN'S

- SAINTLY SEWERS
- HAVING FUN STAYING YOUNG
- AARP SENIOR DRIVING COURSE
- INTO THE WOODS AUDITIONS

OPERATING BUDGET

YOUTH NEWS

- KENNYWOOD
- VBS

WITH APPRECIATION

Current Church Council Members

PRESIDENT - CHRISTIAN ED.	STEVE GOTTSCHALK
VICE PRESIDENT - CEMETERY	SAM SESTI
TREASURER - FINANCE	JESSICA GAMACHÉ
SECRETARY - EVANGELISM	WENDY WEST HICKEY
SENIOR PASTOR	PASTOR SMAIL
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	PASTOR CLEMENTSON
MUTUAL MINISTRY	MATTHEW GALBRAITH
YOUTH MINISTRY	JAY CAULKINS
STEWARDSHIP	MARCIE EMORY
SOCIAL MINISTRY	TONY GOOD
WORSHIP & MUSIC	MARSHA LOGAN
PRESCHOOL	JODY REMOVCHIK
FELLOWSHIP	SANDY ALLEN
PROPERTY	LLOYD WHITE

St. John's Current Staff

SENIOR PASTOR	KARI SMAIL
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	BETH CLEMENTSON
DIR. OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC	RON BALING
ORGANIST & DIR. OF CHOIRS	JOSEPH TUTTLE
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	MARY LYNNE MARTIN
OFFICE ASSISTANT	ANDREA MILLER
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK	RICH VOLPE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	LAURA COOMBS
DIR. OF ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL	JENNIFER BOLINDA
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR	LINDA MEYERDIERKS
BUILDING USAGE COORDINATOR	MIKE SHELEHEDA
CUSTODIAN	GEORGE TUNNEY

St. John's Lutheran Church
"Making Christ Known"

Current Information for June & July 2025
Vol. 6 Issue 5 & 6

A Note from Pastor Beth

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In the summer months, sometimes it's easy to forget about church, because we often use them to recuperate from the busy school year or to take trips to exciting places. So, we wanted to find a way to help you remember that we're still here and we want you to be here too!

This summer, we hope you will participate in the "St. John's of Highland Summer BINGO Challenge!" At the end of the newsletter, you'll find the official board – it contains various activities to participate in throughout the summer – some you'll have to do in worship or in the church building, others can be done from anywhere in the world! There will be various prizes for all the different ways you can get BINGO (Traditional across/down/diagonal, four corners, all card) and we'll have those posted in the church.

While prizes are fun, ultimately, I hope you'll take on the Summer BINGO Challenge as a way to stay connected to St. John's, to our community, and to your faith this summer. Each activity provides an opportunity for us to grow together as a community and to grow in our relationships with God. I hope you're up to the challenge!

Peace,
Pastor Beth

Our Summer Worship Opportunities

Saturdays

5:30p.m. ~ in our sanctuary
We will rotate between Traditional & Contemporary styles of service

Sundays

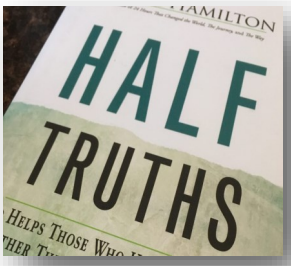
8:30a.m. ~ Traditional service
10:00a.m. ~ Contemporary service
All Sunday services are now Livestreamed
www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com

~Communion~

We offer a hybrid style of receiving our Lord's Supper. Those attending services in person may choose to come up to the Altar to receive bread and wine, or remain in their seat and participate with our current no touch method.

For those who are more comfortable still worshiping at home, consecrated cups are available for pickup in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church office area 9a.m. Friday – Sunday morning to be used while participating with the Sunday Livestream worship.

This summer we will be taking a look at a five-week study by Adam Hamilton called "Half Truths."



He takes a look at simple phrases which people commonly use that sound like something you would find in the Bible which have an element of truth but miss the point in other ways.

The sessions will look at the following statements: "Everything happens for a reason. God helps those who help themselves. God won't give you more than you can handle. God said it, I believe it, that settles it. Love the sinner, hate the sin."

We will gather on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm, beginning on June 4th and ending on July 2nd.
We will meet in the Conference Room. We hope you can join us for one, some, or all of our studies this summer!

Our annual election of Congregation Council representatives will take place on

Sunday, June 29, at 9:30a.m.
(between worship services)

Please join us for this important yearly event in the life of our congregation. Details on candidates will be provided in advance of the meeting in print form at the church, and an email will be sent as well which will include a zoom link for those who wish to attend virtually.

Thank you

Steve Gottschalk
Jessica Gamache
Tony Good
Wendy West Hickey

for all of your dedication serving on council for the past three years.

BETTER TOGETHER REFLECTIONS ~ June/July: A Faith Perspective

It is summer and it is a wonderful time to be outside in the beauty of nature. A story about Jesus that incorporates nature is the story of Zaccheaus in Luke 19. We hear of how Zaccheaus climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus, and when Jesus sees Zaccheaus in the tree he tells him that he wants to go to his house. This shocks the crowd because they only see Zaccheaus as a sinner since he was a tax collector and they were known to collect more than what was owed to fill their own pockets. Yet the encounter with Jesus changes Zaccheaus. He promises to give half of what he owns to the poor and to give back four times to anyone he defrauded. Jesus gave Zaccheaus a new perspective and he responded to it in joyful giving to others. He learned from Christ that we are **"Better Together!"** How does your faith perspective inform your giving?

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Meals on Wheels

Volunteers at St. John's are baking desert items for Meals-on-Wheels for the month of June.

If you have participated in this ministry in the past, you should have received a postcard in your mailbox this past week with your chosen Sunday to drop off your delicious items in our Highland Hall Galley Kitchen.

A special treat of cookies, brownies, muffins, or breads individually wrapped - if possible - puts a smile on the faces of those we serve. If you would like to be involved, we can ALWAYS add bakers/ purchasers to our list! For more information, please contact Eric Kofmehl at ekofmehl@yahoo.com or Kathy Kofmehl at kathrynkofmehl@hotmail.com.

We are currently collecting non-perishable food for Northside Common Ministries **through June 8th**. There are brown shopping bags at each entrance to our Sanctuary, each with suggested food items that are needed. You can decide which bag items you'd like to fill. NCM serve many families in the area and the numbers keep growing.

Thank you for all of your support in the past.

REMEMBER-A-DAD

Honor or Memorialize your Father and/or Father figure on Father's day by making a contribution to the Pleasant Valley Men' Shelter. Checks should be made out to *'St John's Lutheran Church of Highland'* and placed in the collection plate or dropped off at the church office. One night's lodging is approximately $25. Any donation will be appreciated and recognized in the bulletin on Father's day.

Fathers Day–June 15th

(Please return by 6/08/25)

Your Name _____

In **Memory** of _____

In **Honor** of _____

Amount enclosed $ _____

St. John's Community Pantry

Our **FREE** Community Pantry in the rear parking lot provides personal care items to those in need. It has been a blessing to many in our community however, the shelves empty quickly. Please help us restock!

Useful items that are always needed:

toilet paper	paper towels	soaps/shampoos
toothpaste	toothbrushes	dental floss
deodorants	feminine products	General cleaning products

First Aid items (*band-aides, ointments, disinfectant wipes, tissues, etc*)

You may also make a monetary donation to our ***Family Emergency Fund.***

The only **RESTRICTIONS** to our pantry are *food* items, medicines, used and/or open packaged items or things that can melt or freeze in outdoor weather conditions.

Partners in Ministry

St Mark's Lutheran Church is the home of Backyard Angels. They distribute clothing and other items to those who are in need. Since January we have delivered 5 trucks full of clothing from our congregation. Special thanks to Rich Volpe and the Kofmehls for the delivery service! Please place your clothing and shoes in good used condition on the tables designated in Highland Hall. Please bring clothing appropriate for the current season.

PLEASANT VALLEY MEN'S SHELTER

On the 4th Wednesday of each month, members of our congregation provide a dinner to those men staying at the Pleasant Valley Shelter. Thank you to **Cathy Coudriet** for providing the June meal and the July meal will be provided by the **Ruffalo family**.

If you'd like to be involved in this Ministry outreach project please contact **Emily Bovan** 724-757-7815 or **Jean Martz** 412-364-2894.

BETHLEHEM WOMEN'S SHELTER

On the first Monday of each month, members of our congregation provide a meal for 45 women. The meal can be dropped off (prior to 4:30pm) or you may stay to help serve. Thank you to the **Girl Scouts** for serving the May meal.

To sign up or for more information, please notify Joumana Driscoll at joumana.driscoll@gmail.com or Jean Martz at 412-327-5459

The NHRM is currently working with the Jewish Federation of Community Services to identify refugee families in our area who need our help with transitioning into their new communities. Although we still remain in contact with our family from Syria, they are much more independent and need little assistance from us. But the more volunteers we have, the more new families we can help. Please consider joining us. Contact Pastor Beth (**beth@sjhighland.com**) or Sam Baling (**sbaling@gmail.com**) for more information

Because we have been awarded a generous grant from Ethyl L. Verney Endowment Fund by the Southwest PA Synod, we are not in need of financial support at this time. However, Global Refuge (*formerly Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services*) is in DIRE need of funding. They, like JFCS, have families who arrived in the US last fall with a promise of support for resettlement here, but have no funds to keep those promises. Their website is GlobalRefuge.org.

"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35

ACTIVITIES

Saintly Sewers

Please check out our QUILT of the WEEK in Highland Hall. We will be displaying completed quilts that have been made for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts will be sent along with the many others we have made to children around the world including in the USA. We are proud of the beautiful quilts that we have sewn and would love to give everyone a chance to enjoy them!

Also, we have at least 15 quilts waiting to be tied. This is the last step in completing each quilt. While our ladies are working diligently to complete these quilts, we could use more people to help us finish. No sewing experience necessary. Please join us Tuesdays at 12:30 in Highland Hall. If anyone would rather sew at home we have "kits" that have blocks ready to be sewn together, all laid out and numbered.

Having Fun Staying Young!

We are an exercise group that meets on **Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00a.m.**

Friends gather at 9:30am to talk, visit and have a cup of coffee together before class. We end by sharing each others names and any prayer concerns that we might have. It is a wonderful group and they are friendly and supportive. Our class has men and women of all ability levels. ***Come and join our group of active friends!***

AARP

Take the AARP Smart Driver ™ classroom course and you could save money on your auto insurance!*

⇒ Refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road.
⇒ Learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts.
⇒ Discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road.

THERE'S A CLASSROOM COURSE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD! NEW CONTENT ADDED!

Date(s) & Time(s):
2-DAY COURSE
(Both days are required)
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Location:
ST JOHN HIGHLAND CHURCH
311 CUMBERLAND ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

Register Now: (412) 367-5962

For More Information:
You must pre-register. On-line registration/payment available at aarp.info/c39804. Individuals that have United Medicare Supplement Insurance plans are eligible to take the course at no cost through their insurance. You must present your Medicare Supplement card.

$20 for AARP members
$25 for non-members

For more information, visit **aarp.org/drive**
or call **1-888-773-7160**

ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL LISTENS……

Please share your thoughts with:

Sandy Allen
Jay Caulkins
Marcy Emory
Marsha Logan
Jody Removchik
Matthew Galbraith
Jessica Gamache*
Tony Good*
Steve Gottschalk*
Sam Sesti
Lloyd White
Wendy West Hickey*
Pastor Kari & Pastor Beth

Council term expires July 1, 2025.
We are very grateful for your gifts and dedication to our congregation!

You can email the Congregation Council at listeningconcerns@stjohnslutheranchurch.com.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND & BEACON ON THE HILL PRODUCTIONS

Proudly Presents

INTO THE WOODS

Music & Lyrics by:
Stephen Sondheim
Originally Directed on Broadway by:
James Lapine
Orchestrations by:
Jonathan Tunick
Book by:
James Lapine

INTO THE WOODS
Is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

November 21 & 22 at 7:30 PM

November 22 & 23 at 2:00 PM

CAST AUDITIONS:

AUGUST 17th 6:00 PM.

HIGHLAND HALL
St. John's Lutheran Church of Highland
311 Cumberland Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237

ALL ARE WELCOME

Cast Requirements:
- Must be at least 14 years old.
- Must be able to attend rehearsals at St. John's. Most Sundays from 6:00-9:00 PM and Tuesdays from 7:00-9:30 PM. Rehearsals start August 19th.
- Must attend Mandatory Dress Rehearsals: November 18, 19, & 20
- Must be able to perform in all 4 show times/dates.
- The Audition will involve singing a short song or verse of a song (unaccompanied) in front of those auditioning and the Directors. Please choose any song that you wish to sing.

If anyone has questions, please contact Bryan Abbott at 412-337-7115.

2025 Operating Budget

2025 Operating Budget

YTD Income vs. Budget –	**April 2025**
YTD Income Budgeted	$ 238,833.33
YTD Income Received	$ 230,517.07
Over (Under) Budgeted	**($ 8,316.26)**

YTD Expenses vs Budget –	**April 2025**
YTD Expenses Budgeted	$ 238,833.33
YTD Expenses Incurred	$ 251,434.12
Over (Under) Budgeted	**$ 16,208.54**

YTD Income Received	$ 230,517.07
YTD Expenses Incurred	$ 251,434.12
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	**($ 20,917.05)***

We accept credit payments for a variety of missions. **Scan the QR code,** indicate the amount you would like to donate then click the dropdown arrow and choose the specific fund you would like to direct your contribution to. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Please note: If you currently choose to have your monthly contribution automatically withdrawn from your checking account, this method of contributing does not replace the ACH-Auto Debit

* Includes $1,108 for computer to control the zone heating and $1,120 new electrical outlets for drapes for a total of $2,228 out of the surplus fund for 2025 and the $10,000 donation under World Mission for the SW Synod.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT BECAUSE WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

Youth News

Middle & High School Youth Group

Sunday, June 22nd, following the 10am worship service. We'll be meeting at the church and then carpooling to **KENNYWOOD** for an afternoon of fun! The cost is $20/student. Youth are welcome to bring extra cash for food/snacks/etc. As always, youth are welcome and encouraged to bring friends. Please RSVP to Pastor Beth (beth@sjhighland.com) or Linda Meyerdierks (lmmeyers@zoominternet.net) by Friday, June 13.

Middle & High School Youth Group: Save the Date: Sunday, August 24th - **End of Summer/Back to School Picnic.** Time and Location: TBD!

Volunteers Are Needed for Vacation Bible School!

VBS July 7th – 11th (5:15pm - 8:15pm)

V.B.S VOLUNTEER FORM

Name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone #:_____ Email Address:_____

Positions you are interested in:

Choice One:_____ Choice Two:_____

Choice Three:_____

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- **Wild Bible Adventures** (act out the day's Bible story & help with props)
- **Tundra Treats** (snack time prep and clean-up)
- **Crew Leader** (take up to 8 kids to their stations - no prep work - lots of fun)
- Help with running the **computer** for **video/music** during opening & closing program
- **Imagination Station**/Crafts
- **Glacier Games**

Questions? Email: lmmeyers@zoominternet.net or call/text: 724-612-7745.

V.B.S. -TRUE NORTH!
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

When: July 7 - 12 ~ 5:30pm - 8:00p.m. **Ages**: age 4 - grade 6

Suggested Donation: **$25 per child**
Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost Includes: Bible buddies, gizmos, snack, and music card or cd and 1 CD of VBS music per family

V.B.S Registration Form (One form per child please)

Name:	
Street Address:	
City:	Zip:
Home/Cell Phone:	
Date of Birth:	Grade beginning next fall:
Emergency Contact Information:	
Mother's name:	Father's name:
Mother's cell:	Father's cell:
Other contact (include name):	
Allergies:	
Medical Conditions:	
Please Circle One: Member of church	**Visitor**
If you are a visitor, now did you hear about us?	
Please choose one of the following: **Would you like a Take-Home Streaming Music Video Card – YES or NO OR** **Would you like a Sing & Play Splash Music CD – YES or NO**	
Name of one friend to be in your child's group (optional):	

With Appreciation.....

Thank you to those who joined us in the rain to help place the flags in the church cemetery the Thursday before Memorial Day. We placed about 70 flags. A list by conflict is listed below. We are developing a list of the Veteran graves. If anyone is walking in the cemetery and notices a Veteran grave without a flag please let the church office know. We will be doing this again next year, so stay tuned for a date. Thank you for your help and giving of your time for this effort.

Frank and Cindy Kelly

WW1-15 **9/11-1** **VFW-2**
WW2-12 **Vietnam-4** **Daughters of revolution-1**
Korea-7 **US Veteran-7** **American Legion-6** **Grand Army of the Republic-2**

St. John's of Highland Summer BINGO Challenge

Have a conversation w/ someone 15+yrs older/younger	**Invite someone to Vacation Bible School**	Send a card to a homebound member	Pray for someone every day for a week & let them know about it	Attend coffee hour between services
Write a thank you note to someone at St. John's	Donate items to one of our ministry partners (ex. Blessed Bundles or Backyard Angels)	Sit in a different seat in worship	Ask 3 church friends: What is your favorite hymn?	Find one new (to you) ministry/event to get involved in - Ask a pastor if you need help!
Attend church picnic at Camp Lutherlyn	Sit in the front row in worship	FREE SPACE	Read your bible every day for a week	Sit with someone new in worship
Like, Comment, or share one of the church's Facebook posts	Worship 3 weeks in a row	Read the June/July St. John's Newsletter	Invite someone to church	Find the Tithe.ly link on our website and give a $5 donation to the designation of your choosing
Read an entire Gospel from beginning to end in one week	Visit the church website and read our mission & vision statement	Have a conversation with someone who has been a member at the church longer than you	Have a conversation with someone who joined St. John's after you	**Take a walk around the outside of the church building**

stjohnslutheranchurch.com

ST. JOHN'S OF HIGHLAND SUMMER BINGO CHALLENGE

This summer, join in the fun and take on the Summer Bingo Challenge!

Complete the activities on the board to win prizes!

Ways to Win BINGO:
5 in a Row, 4 Corners, X, Blackout/All Card

Prizes Include:
5 in a Row, 4 Corners, & X get to chose an item out of a treasure chest of prizes.

Blackout/All Card - A $25 donation will be made in your name to one of our ministry partners (we'll provide you with a list)! - 1 Donation Per Household

*You can win BINGO multiple times! Try to complete all of the BINGO board "Ways to Win!"

*Show your winning card to Pastor Beth to receive your prize!