

# St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: 724-548-5512

Church Web Site: [www.stjohnskittanning.org](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**May 18, 2025**

**11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE**



St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North America Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Fifth Sunday of Easter**. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month and on Festival Sundays. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

*Prayer upon entering God's House:*

*Eternal God, help us to maintain our focus on Your glory, rather than on the glories of the world. We turn our hearts to You as the Holy Giver of all life. Deepen our devotion to You. Hear us, O Lord, we pray Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Sheep May Safely Graze"*

*Bach*

Emily Bouch and Marlee Smith, Flautists

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"LBW 143**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## \*KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



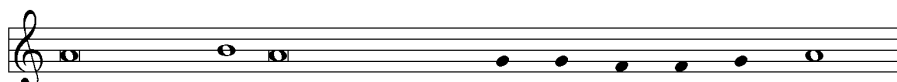
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.



☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant Your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **FIRST LESSON**

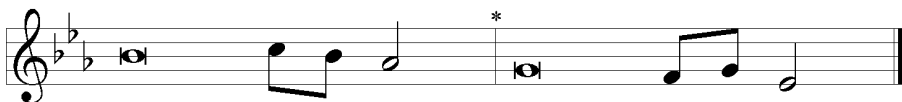
**Noelle Smoyer**

**Acts 11:1–18**

**A** The First Lesson is from the eleventh chapter of Acts.

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**A** Here ends the reading.



Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;\*  
praise him | in the heights.

**<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\*  
praise him, | all his host.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, | sun and moon;\*  
praise him, all you | shining stars.

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\*  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD;\*  
for he commanded, and they | were created.

**<sup>6</sup>He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\*  
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth,\*  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, | snow and fog,\*  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,\*  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

**<sup>10</sup>wild beasts | and all cattle,\*  
creeping things and | winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup>kings of the earth | and all peoples,\*  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

**<sup>12</sup>young | men and maidens,\*  
old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,\*  
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his | loyal servants,\*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. |  
Hallelujah!**

## SECOND LESSON

Emma Graf

Revelation 21:1–6

**A** The Second Lesson is from the twenty-first chapter of Revelation. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God

himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

**A** Here ends the reading.

**\*VERSE**

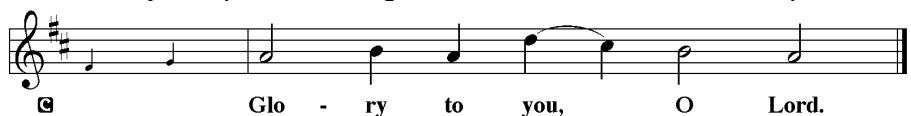


**\*GOSPEL**

**Colvin Adkins**

**John 13:31–35**

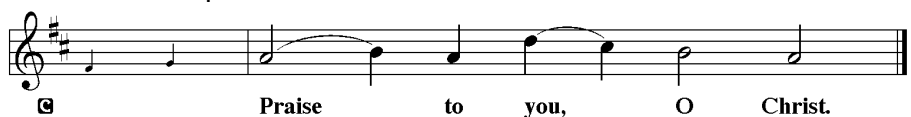
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.



<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Cassidy Smith

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*See Screen*

### SERMON

Delaney Smith, Mollie Bouch

### \*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### \*THE PRAYERS

Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Resurrection and the Life! You bestow, here and now, a vision of that new creation, in which sin and death are no more. Our words falter. We truly are "lost in wonder, love, and praise." To you alone, blessed Jesus, be the glory! LORD in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*(Other intercessions are offered.)*

**L** Into your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

**C** Amen

### \*PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

### ANTHEM

*"My Jesus"*

*Ann Wilson, Pardo, and West*



## \*OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

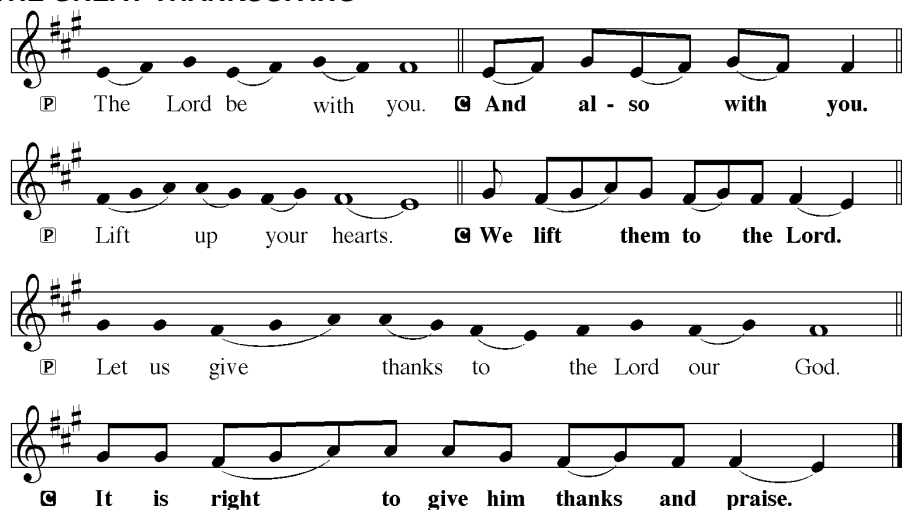
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**A** Blessed are You,

**C** O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness  
You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer  
ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and  
redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who  
gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

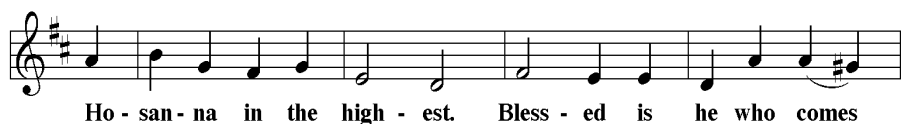
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Sanctus**



**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P** Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

See Screen, LBW 210, 315, 363, 200

### \*COMMUNION

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present  
in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in His grace.

**C** Amen

### \*CANTICLE



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray....We give You thanks almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in Your mercy You would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our LORD.

**C** Amen

### \*BENEDICTION

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



### RECESSIONAL HYMN

See Screen

### \*DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

See Screen

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*A Nursery/Cry Room is available on the second floor of the Education Building for those who may need it.*



***Everyone is invited for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering space. Let's celebrate our Youth and let them know how much we appreciate them.***

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S  
YOUTH SUNDAY**

|                      |            |                       |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Today</b>         | 9:45 a.m.  | Sunday School         |
|                      | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: Communion    |
| <b>Monday 5/19</b>   | 6:00 p.m.  | Mutual Ministry       |
|                      | 7:00 p.m.  | Worship/Music         |
| <b>Thursday 5/22</b> | 1:00 p.m.  | Newsletter mailing    |
|                      | 2:45 p.m.  | Catechism             |
|                      | 7:00 p.m.  | Catechism             |
| <b>Sunday 5/25</b>   | 8:30 a.m.  | Rock of Our Salvation |
|                      | 9:45 a.m.  | Sunday School         |
|                      | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir          |
|                      | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: Communion    |

*Mark  
the  
Date*

**Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. . . .  
looking for workers to deep-clean the  
old fellowship hall in preparation for  
VBS... See Tammy Fleeger**

**SPARK – Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:15 p.m.**

*June 7, 2025, 11 a.m.  
Dee Elder Memorial*

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 7:30 a.m.  
Landscaping. Please bring work  
gloves and a wheelbarrow, etc.**

**MAGNIFIED!**

**Vacation Bible School 2025!  
June 16-19 . . . . 9:00-11:30am  
Kids Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*Sign up at*

[www.tinyurl.com/stjohnskittanningvbs2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/stjohnskittanningvbs2025)





<https://www.facebook.com/intentsNALC/>

Page opening soon!!!



## *Katie's Cupboard* MAY DAY! MAY DAY!

With long summer days & weekends with insufficient access to food as school will soon be out of session, bubbles, coloring books and sidewalk chalk helps entertain the little ones at home or daycare and are always welcome.

**Katie's Cupboard @ St Johns will be needed more than ever!** If you should bring your items on a Sunday, please leave on the cart in the Gathering Space.

*It is still **always possible** to leave in the cupboard daily **as the Holy Spirit moves you!** This way we can bless the cupboard thru the week and weekends consistently.*

Pray over this, when you are shopping what needs do YOU address for your household that you could purchase to bless this ministry as well?

**Please remember you are feeding Jesus' flock**

**No opened, used, home canned or expired items please.**



## **Children's Hour:**

Thank you for joining us.  
See you in the Fall!



## **Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church**

**You can now make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!**

Scan the QR code for St. John's Lutheran Church: **Options Include:** *Local Expenses, Improvement Fund, Benevolence, Capital Appeal, Evangelism, Sunday School, Youth, World Hunger, Katie's Cupboard and Other.* **When choosing "Other" please indicate which fund you are contributing to. Thank you for supporting your church.**



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



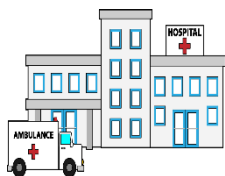
## **Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast**

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. <http://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

**Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:**

[www.stjohnskittanning.org](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

**Here you will find:** Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events and program information, Youth Events including photos from the recent QUAKE trip, and more.



## **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.***

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sermon             | Delaney Smith, Mollie Bouch  |
| Children's Sermon  | Cassidy Smith  |
| Assisting Minister | Emily Bouch  |
| Lectors            | Noelle Smoyer, Marlee Smith, Emma Graf, Colvin Adkins  |
| Comm Assistants    | Brody Hodak, Kendall Bailey, Stella Venesky, Avia Clever   |
| Acolytes           | Elizabeth Smoyer, Ava Rupp   |
| Special Music:     | Emily Bouch and Marlee Smith<br><i>Accompanied by: Rebecca Veith</i>   |
| Ushers             | William Bouch, Gracie Hodak, Ella Fennell, Caitlin Young   |
| Welcome Team       | Colton Gariglio, Kherington Hilty, Vaila Clever  |
| Camera Operator    | Robert John  |
| Praise Band:       | <b>Guitar:</b> Stella Venesky <b>Piano:</b> Marlee Smith<br><b>Bass:</b> Anna Venesky <b>Drums:</b> Cassidy Smith<br><b>Vocals:</b> Marlee Smith, Delaney Smith, Cassidy Smith |

A special thank you to Gene Hughes for training our youth for Youth Sunday  
and always instructing our acolytes each week!

A special thank you to Matthew Smith for running and setting up  
praise band sound equipment.

## STAFF MEMBERS

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Director of Children's & Youth Ministry   | Julie Smith      |
| Secretary                                 | Angela B. Clever |
| Sexton                                    | TBA              |
| Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music | Rebecca Veith    |
| Sr. Choir Accompanist                     | Elizabeth Cramer |



**The flowers on the altar** this morning are presented to the Glory of God and  
in loving memory of my father William Montgomery, whose birthday is  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, by Rose Montgomery.

## OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are  
saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God,  
each other, our community and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve  
by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading  
others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents  
as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.

**GRACE**  
*happens*



at  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Kittanning, PA