

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

November 30, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in worship this morning as we celebrate the **First Sunday of Advent**. 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:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Be present with us that we might worship You and glorify Your holy name. Help us to overcome that which may rob us of focusing on Your power. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”

Bach

***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 Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***OPENING HYMN**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LBW 28

***GREETING**

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



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



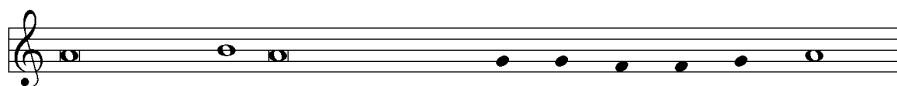
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



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

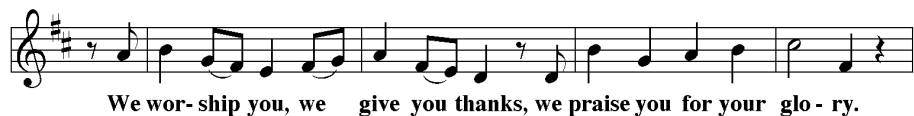


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra- cious Lord. **C** A - men

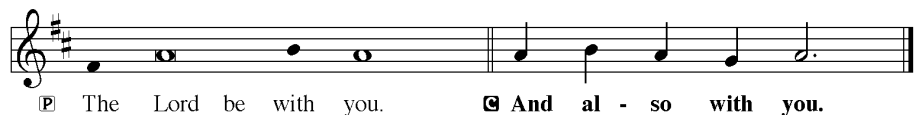
*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glo- ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 2:1–5

A The First Lesson is from the second chapter of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

A Here ends the reading.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LBW 34, v. 1

ADVENT READING

PSALM:

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**⁸For my brethren and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 13:11-14

A The Second Lesson is from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A Here ends the reading.

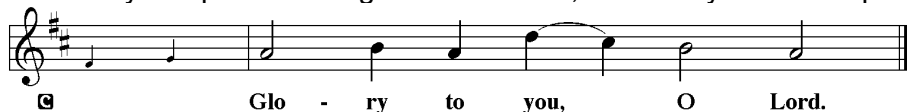
*VERSE



GOSPEL:

Matthew 24:36-44

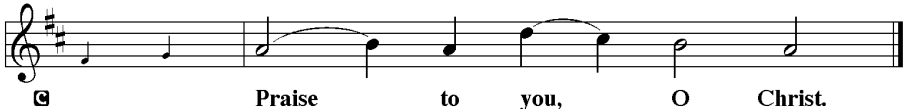
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if

the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN** *"The Advent of Our God"* *LBW 22*

SERMON

***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

ANTHEM *"Waiting"* *Chopin*

***OFFERTORY**



*THE PRAYERS

As we await the coming of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Thank you, Lord, for your promise to visit your people with judgment and forgiveness. Thank you for Jesus, your final Word and the Yes to all your promises. Make us ready to receive him into our hearts, homes, and world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Other intercessions are offered.)

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

C Amen

*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.**

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.



A - men

*CLOSING HYMN

"Fling Wide the Door"

LBW 32

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Veni, veni Emmanuel"

Plainsong

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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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Sunday 11/30 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| Wednesday 12/3 | 9:30 a.m. | Children's Hour |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Senior Bells |
| | 7:00 a.m. | P.J.'s Bible Study |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Senior Choir |
| Thursday 12/4 | 9:30 a.m. | Children's Hour |
| | 2:45 p.m. | Catechism |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Catechism |
| Sunday 11/7 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: Communion |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Christmas Concert |



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."**

GRACE
happens



at
**St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA**

*For 200 years
St. John's has been a bright beacon
of Christ's light and life
for the world.*

***200 years and the work continues:
That all might know Christ's Love.***



Katie's Cupboard

As we approach Fall and Winter, rising inflation and shrinking dollars, your gracious gifts are providing in a way greater than you can imagine. Your weekly donations of food and

offering make such an impact.

Are you aware of any groups looking for a service project? Please remind them that Katie's is a great opportunity. St Johns would be happy to accept their donations or service time to support our community with their help!

If you would care to volunteer, have great ideas for further this ministry, or can offer suggestions, please contact any member of council, Amber Zurn 724/902-9471 or Tammy Fleeger 724/664-1773.

Looking for Cookies! December 7th, please reach out to Connie McMaster, Debbie Griffin or the church office if you can donate. We are also looking for gluten free and sugar free cookies as well~



**please deliver the cookies to the kitchen by December 7th for before the 11am service.



Social Ministry Christmas Project

This year we have the opportunity to adopt families for Christmas. There are sign-up boards in the narthex that list wants, needs and sizes. If you are unable to shop but would like to help, please make a donation in an envelope marked Christmas Families and place it in the offering. If you choose to purchase the item(s), please place a check mark in the box next to each item you wish to purchase. Please use gift cards for food assistance. Remember to get a gift receipt when purchasing the gift and enclose it with the gift. Gifts should be unwrapped and a gift tag on each gift with the child's number.

IMPORTANT! The gifts should be brought to the church by **Monday, December 1st** and each package marked with a Post it note attached on the outside describing the item inside and the name of the child (*this information is for the committee only*).

Any questions, please contact Michelle Kozlowski at 724-816-1680. Thank you for your support!



Katie's Cupboard

Again, this year we have created a Reverse Advent Calendar and included Epiphany as well. Reverse calendars are in the Narthex.

If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in our Church for the Christmas Eve Service, please complete this form and return with your check made payable to: **"St. John's Lutheran Church"** marked **"Christmas Flowers"** in the memo line. The Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.



Orders must be received by December 7, 2025

Number of **RED** _____

Number of **WHITE** _____

I wish for the acknowledgment in the bulletin to read as follows:

PLEASE PRINT, USING FIRST AND LAST NAMES

IN **MEMORY** OF _____

IN **HONOR** OF _____

GIVEN BY: _____

OFFERING ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____

Please check one: Check _____ Cash _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please check one:

_____ I will take my poinsettia(s) with me after the Christmas Eve Service.

_____ Please take my poinsettia to a shut-in.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Acolytes
Welcome Team
Camera Operator

Nancy Pierce
Linda Charley
Ella Fennel
The Bouch Family
Keith Livengood

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
TBD
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



St. John's Lutheran Church

Presents the

Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring:

The Vocal Choirs and The Bell Choirs

Under the direction of Rebecca Veith

Accompanist Elizabeth Cramer

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free. No offering will be taken.

Refreshments to follow the concert.

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.