

# St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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Home: 724-548-5512

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

Church e-mail: [stjohnskittanning@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskittanning@gmail.com)

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**October 4, 2026**

**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 **Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost**. 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:*

*Lord, as we join brothers and sisters in praying 'give us this day our daily bread,' help us to feed on Your Word and be clothed in Your righteousness so that whether in this world or the next, we will be at home with You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE***"Darwall"**arr. Candlyn***\*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**     *"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"*     **LBW 433**

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



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



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



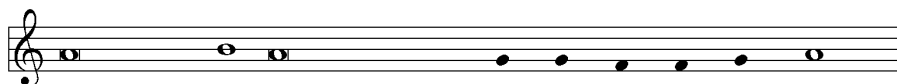
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

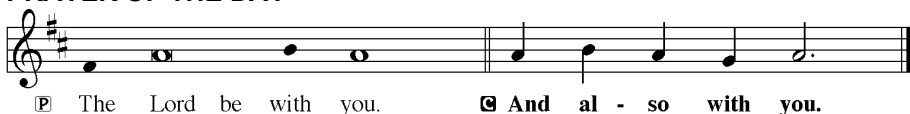


**G** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



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.  
Our Lord Jesus, You have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over You, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge You as Lord.  
**C** **Amen**

The First Lesson is from the fifth chapter of Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

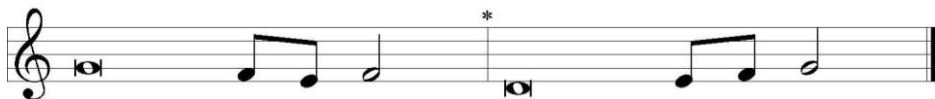
<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briers and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

**A** Here ends the reading



Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

**<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;\*  
you cast out the nations and | planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You prepared the | ground for it;\*  
it took root and | filled the land.

**<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered | by its shadow\*  
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea\*  
and its branches | to the river.

**<sup>12</sup>Why have you broken | down its wall,\*  
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,\*  
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

**<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;  
behold and | tend this vine;\*  
preserve what your right | hand has planted.**

## TRANSFORMATIONAL GENEROSITY TEMPLE TALK

### SECOND LESSON:

### PHILIPPIANS 3:4–14

The Second Lesson is from the third chapter of Philippians.

<sup>4</sup> Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one

thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**A** Here ends the reading

**\*VERSE**



**GOSPEL:**

**MATTHEW 21:33-46**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.



<sup>33</sup> “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

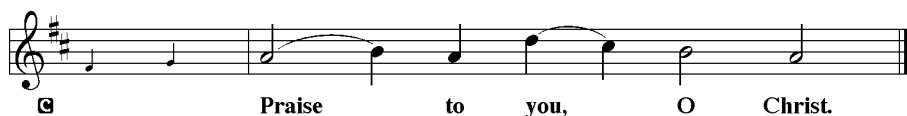
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup> And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> And although they were

seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"*

*LBW 410*

## SERMON

*Stagnant or Vibrant?*

### Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

## \* NICENE CREED

**C** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## \*THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and for one another.

Father, thank you for grafting us into your pleasant planting: your people Israel. Thank you for uniting us with your true Vine: your dear Son Jesus. Make us abound with fruit of the Holy Spirit, to your glory and for the nourishment of a world starved for your love.

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 Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

**\*PEACE**

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

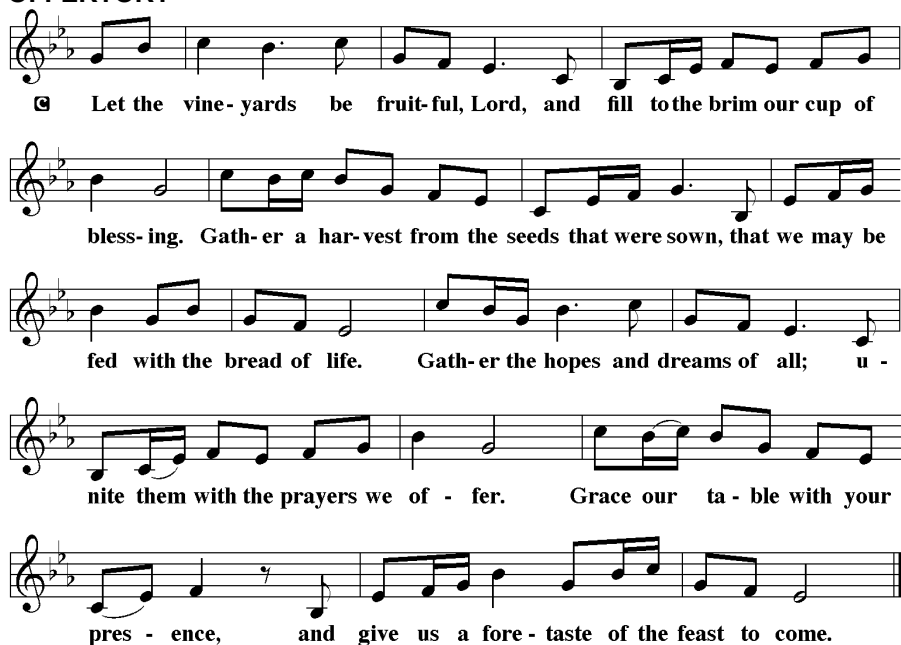
**C** And also with you.

**ANTHEM**

*"Cornerstone"*

*arr. Clydesdale*

**\*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.

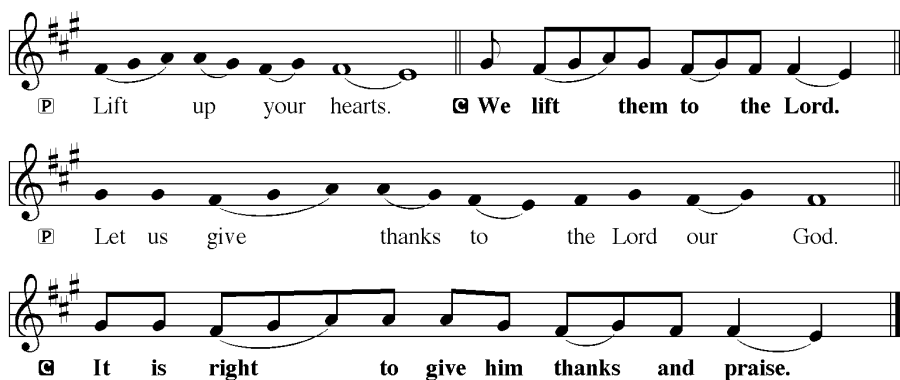
**A** Blessed are You,

**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**

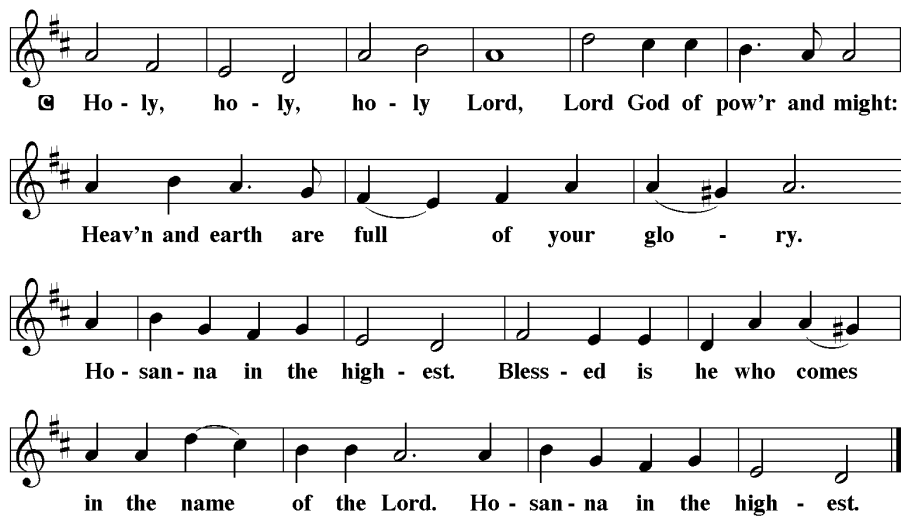


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



## PREFACE

**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, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## EUCHARISTIC 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**

**C:** 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**

*LBW 212, 224, WOV 765, 709*

### **\*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.*

*Gluten-Free Communion Wafers are available, please inform the Pastor of your needs.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

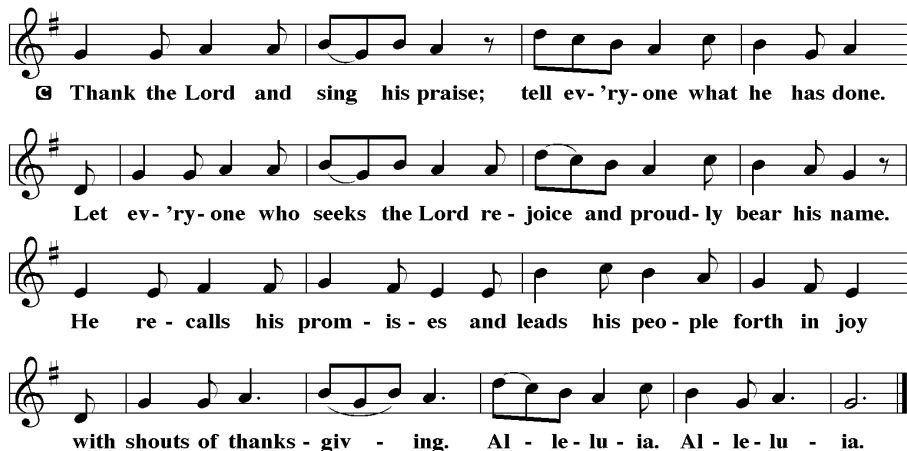
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**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.  
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray....Pour out upon us the Spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with one heavenly food: through 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.



☞ A - men

## CLOSING HYMN

*"Lord of All Hopefulness"*

*LBW 469*

## \*DISMISSAL

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*"Toccata"*

*Young*

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*Everyone is invited for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering space.*

*You can't outgive God;  
No matter how much you try.*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

|             |            |                    |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| Today       | 9:45 a.m.  | Sunday School      |
|             | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir       |
|             | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: Communion |
| Monday 10/5 | 7:00 p.m.  | Property Meeting   |
|             | 8:00 p.m.  | Evangelism Meeting |

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

|                |           |                    |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Wednesday 10/7 | 9:30 p.m. | Children's Hour    |
|                | 6:15 p.m. | Senior Bells       |
|                | 6:30 p.m. | P.J.'s Bible Study |
|                | 7:30 p.m. | Senior Choir       |

|               |           |                 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Thursday 10/8 | 9:30 a.m. | Children's Hour |
|               | 2:45 p.m. | Catechism       |
|               | 7:00 p.m. | Catechism       |

|              |                                         |                                      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 10/11 | <b>Harvest Home / Generosity Sunday</b> |                                      |
|              | 9:45 a.m.                               | Sunday School                        |
|              | 10:00 a.m.                              | Senior Choir                         |
|              | 11:00 a.m.                              | Worship<br><b>Celebration Dinner</b> |

### Mark Your Calendars

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Oct 11 | Generosity Sunday / Harvest Home |
| Oct 25 | Reformation Sunday               |
| Nov 8  | Turkey / Ham Dinner              |
| Dec 6  | Christmas Concert                |



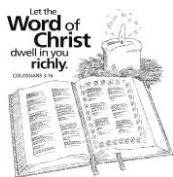
### **Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church**

**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."**





## Pastor's Sunday School Class . . .

. . . will be an adventure through the book of Acts of the Apostles. How the Holy Spirit worked through the early church is instructive for our life of faith today.



## Wednesday Bible Study

The Book of Ruth 6:30 pm

## Internet Streaming St. John's Live

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, program information, and more.

## Harvest Home Sunday is – NEXT Sunday

Donations of non-perishable food items are being collected through next week and may be placed in the chancel area of the sanctuary. All food will be given to Katie's Cupboard here at St. John's. There is a GREAT need in our community and this is a wonderful way to share God's love by giving to help our neighbors in need. Thank you for your support!



**GENEROSITY SUNDAY,  
OCT. 11, 2026**



*You are cordially invited to a  
Catered Luncheon  
following the 11AM Worship.  
Enjoy a meal provided by  
St. John's in celebration of the  
"In the Beginning—Generosity"  
Sunday.*

I/We will be present for worship and the Celebration Luncheon on  
Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

☐ Yes ☐ No

The number of people attending from my household will be

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS DUE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

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**Evangelism**  
**MEETING**  
**Monday, October 5, 2026**  
**8:00 PM**  
*All are welcome!*

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers  
Lectors  
Comm Assistants

Charlie Bleakney  
Val Lager  
Sue Neal, Jill Wranich  
Karen Waugaman, Karina Blose  
TBD  
TBD  
TBD

Acolytes  
Welcome Team  
Camera Operator

## 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



**The flower chart for 2026 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. **Flowers are \$70.00.**

## 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.

*St. John's is a group of sinners  
who have been claimed by God  
to gather in this place, to worship Him,  
to learn about Him, to bask in His love,  
to share His love with other people  
and to spread that love with the entire world!*

**GRACE**  
*happens*



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Kittanning, PA

