

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

January 2, 2022

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14

St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church in America. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Second Sunday after Christmas**. 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:

We lift our voices in prayer to You, Lord, and You hear; we present our lives in prayer, and You see; grant to us Your peace and wholeness in all that we do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Fantasia Opus 164"

Lemare

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We worship this day in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness.

P The Almighty and Merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

***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 - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



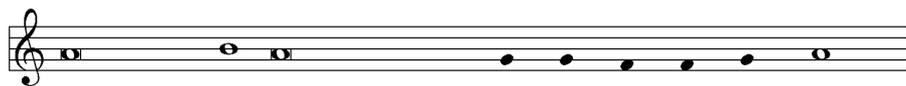
☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

*HYMN OF PRAISE



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



☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; 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:

Jeremiah 31:7–14

A The First Lesson is from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,
I will make them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,
for I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the LORD.”

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

Psalm 147:13–21



Wor-ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.



Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;*
praise your | God, O Zion;

**14for He has strengthened the bars | of your gates;*
He has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

15He has established peace | on your borders;*
He satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

**16He sends out His command | to the earth,*
and His word runs | very swiftly. R**

17He gives | snow like wool;*
He scatters hoar- | frost like ashes.

**18He scatters His | hail like bread crumbs.*
Who can stand a- | gainst His cold?**

19He sends forth His | word and melts them;*
He blows with His wind, and the | waters flow.

**20He declares His | word to Jacob,*
His statutes and His judg- | ments to Israel.**

21He has not done so to any | other nation;*
to them He has not revealed His judgments. | Hallelujah! R

SECOND LESSON:

Ephesians 1:3–14

A The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Ephesians.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set

forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL:

John 1:1-18

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

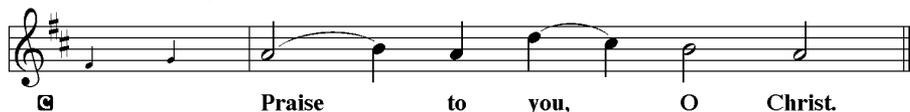
⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were

born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P The Gospel of the LORD.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"The First Noel"

LBW 56

SERMON

***NICENE CREED**

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

A With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

Holy God, thank you for Jesus who grew in wisdom and understanding. Thank you for the Holy Spirit so we too can grow in wisdom and understanding. Jesus, your unfailing Light, takes our sin and gives us his pure holy grace and love.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C 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

ANTHEM

“A Celtic Noel”

Tierney

*OFFERTORY



☪ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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. 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 Great Thanksgiving is a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a 'P' (Psalms) symbol and ends with a 'C' (Credo) symbol. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second line also begins with a 'P' and ends with a 'C'. The lyrics are: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third line begins with a 'P'. The lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth line begins with a 'C'. The lyrics are: 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus is a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a 'C' (Credo) symbol. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:'. The second line begins with a 'C'. The lyrics are: 'Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third line begins with a 'C'. The lyrics are: 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth line begins with a 'C'. The lyrics are: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

C Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

C Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

C in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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**

**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**



C 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

*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.*

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

C Amen

*CANTICLE



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

*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.



CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

LBW 39

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on “Gloria”

Helman

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

Annual Congregational Meeting **Scheduled for** **January 23, 2022**

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 23rd. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2022 and elect an endowment trustee.

Annual Reports

All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers, please submit your reports to the church office by **Wednesday, January 5th**. Our goal is to have the reports ready a week prior to the Annual Meeting in January. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it! If possible, please e-mail your report to:

stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

Pastor's Study

Wednesday, January 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

We will begin by looking at the NALC Sacramental Practices statement. This is a good review of what the Small Catechism says about the sacraments, with added commentary/Bible Study.

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Sunday, January 9th: Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm – Camo Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, January 16th: Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm – Winter Games

Sunday, January 23rd: Project Hope Film Festival 1:30 pm @ Pittsburgh Mills

Sunday, January 30th: No Youth Group

CHILDREN'S HOUR

WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY

9:30-11:00am ages 2 -5yrs

Sign up Anytime Cost: \$1 wk Donation

Join us....for our Fun-and-Faith-Filled, exceptional program that is available for all potty-trained children ages 2 to 5 yrs old. Moms, Grandparents, Caregivers, Babies all welcome! Every week, we present a structured Children's program that blends fun preschool concepts with fun Biblical lessons. The cost is just a donation of \$1.00 per class/NOT required to pay to attend!

ADULT
Sunday School

Anyone who wishes to join the **Ladies of the Von Bora Sunday School class** every Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. is welcome.

We meet in the Church chapel on the second floor of the Education building.

Contact person is Nancy Pierce and all are welcome!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
Monday 1/3	7:00 p.m.	Property meeting
Wednesday 1/5	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Chimes/Junior Choir
	6:00 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Pastor's Bible study
Thursday 1/6	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Finance meeting
Sunday 1/9	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Rock of our Salvation
	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group



Looking for Volunteers to coordinate the stocking & maintaining of Katie's Cupboard

Open - no questions asked, **Katie's Cupboard** fills gaps in services provided by organizations with operating hours and/or requiring paperwork/documentation. **It also encourages community and love for neighbor.** Join us in supporting Katie's Cupboard project in two ways. Purchase items when grocery shopping and place inside the cupboard. Volunteer to work on the "keep it stocked committee" to find ways to sustain this outreach through the congregation and community.



The flower chart for 2022 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 \$50.00.

Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!

Amounts needed in offerings during December to meet our estimated expenses in the following accounts:

Current Account:	\$86,000.00
Benevolence:	\$19,584.00

Every November and December we count on your generosity to make up the difference in these accounts so that we finish the year in the black. This year presents a very great challenge for each and every one of us! Please consider increasing your giving and/or making a significant one time gift over and above your normal offerings. Thank you for your continued commitment to making the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ happen at St. John's.

Creative ways of year end giving to St. John's:

- It is possible, if you are over 70 1/2, to make a direct payment from your IRA to St. John's. This saves the taxes and the gift is still eligible for a charitable gift deduction.
- Giving stock saves capital gains taxes and the gift is still eligible for a charitable gift deduction.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister

Lector

Communion Assistants

Acolyte

Greeter

Camera Operator

Deb Bouch

Karen Waugaman

Karen Waugaman, Nancy Pierce

Noelle Smoyer

Shafer family

Keith Livengood

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

Secretary

Sexton

Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music

Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith

Christine Lettrich

Michael Craft

Rebecca Veith

Elizabeth Cramer

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