

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

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

March 23, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



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 Third Sunday in Lent**. 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:

O God, our maker and sustainer, we pray that we may call upon You for help in every temptation and every trial, and that we may find in You our strength and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Smith

***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

***ENTRANCE HYMN** *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* *LBW 499*

***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.

P Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, Your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son. Help us to hear Your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of Your redeeming love; 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:

ISAIAH 55:1–9

A The First Lesson is from the 55th chapter of Isaiah.

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your loving kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

**⁴So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**⁶when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**⁸My soul clings to you;
Your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND LESSON:

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

A The Second Lesson is from the Tenth chapter of First Corinthians.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

GOSPEL:

LUKE 13:1-9

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"Spread, Oh Spread, Almighty Word"

LBW 379

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

***THE PRAYERS**

A For the Church, the world, and our poor sinful selves, let us pray to our Lord, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son. He diagnoses our sin, and provides our remedy. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit. He opens an escape door when we are tempted, and helps us to repent when we don't walk through. Help us in these struggles, and have mercy on us when we fall.

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.

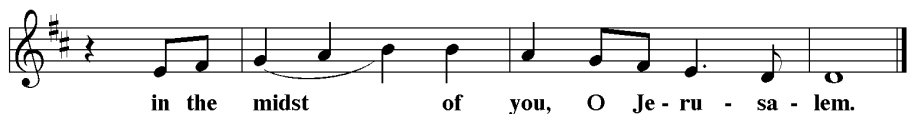
C Amen

ANTHEM

"Take Me Back to the Cross"

Pethel

*OFFERTORY

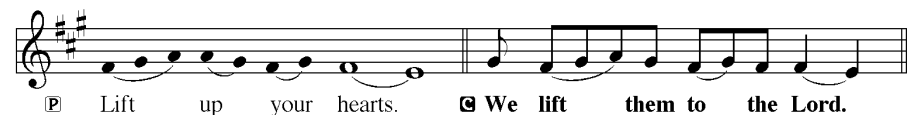


*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



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



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



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:

WOV 710, 711, 776, 709, 740

***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



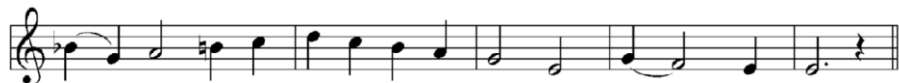
☞ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



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.... Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same 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

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

LBW 98

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“The Way of the Cross Leads Home”

Davis

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23015. Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI Streaming License #11425682.

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.

The flower chart for 2025 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. You may also call the church office.



Flowers have increased to \$75.00 for the 2025 year.

**Wednesday Evening Pastors’ Study:
Adult Catechism, 7:00 pm**

This review is good for those who are preparing to join the congregation as an adult, for adult baptism or for those who just want to brush up on their catechism.

March 26th

Lord’s Prayer

March 33th

The Sacraments, Confession

March 40th

Lutheran History/Theology/Liturgy



Catechism

KMA Community Lenten Worship Services Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm

Mar 25	First United Methodist, 301 N Jefferson	Rev. Mattew Vatalare
Apr. 1	St. Luke’s U.C.C., 333 N McKean St.	Rev. Carl Johnson
Apr. 8	Salvation Army, 205 S Jefferson St	Rev. Edward Walters

**KMA Lenten Luncheons Schedule
Wednesdays @ 12:00 p.m.**

Mar 26	St. Paul’s Episcopal, 112 N Water St.	Rev. Brandon Cooper
Apr. 2	First Baptist, 334 Arch St.	Rev. Jeffrey Smith
Apr. 9	St. Mary’s Catholic, 101 W High St	Father Eric Dinga

Passover Seder

Friday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The Arnie Moss Family will host a Passover Seder at 6:00 pm on Friday April 11th at First Baptist, 334 Arch Street, Kittanning, PA, as part of our Lenten Learning. A free will donation will be taken the night of the Seder.

THERE ARE 125 SPOTS: FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED.

PASSOVER SEDER MEAL

EGG

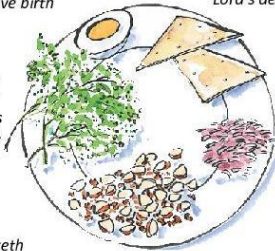
The egg symbolizes the desire for freedom to which hard labor gave birth

UNLEAVENED BREAD

The unleavened bread is the bread of haste, made with eagerness to experience the Lord's deliverance

PARSLEY

A symbol of springtime, parsley is placed in salt water, a sign of the tears that need to shed before joy can be experienced



GRAPE JUICE

Grape juice is drunk to honor the Lord, recognizing His benefits, and the goodness that makes everything possible



MIXED FRUIT

Mixed fruit called Charoseth (which is made of apples and walnuts), help us to remember the mortar which the Israelites were force to make when they were slaves in Egypt

BITTER HERBS

Bitter herbs usually red shredded horseradish, represent the bitterness the Israelites endured before their escape from Egypt

SHANK BONE

The shank bone of the Passover Lamb brings to mind the deliverance which the Lord God wrought for us by the blood of this sacrifice. It is served on the plate reserved for Elijah.

Put this flier in the offering plate.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

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
Tuesday 3/25	7:00 p.m.	KMA Lenten Worship Series @ First United Methodist
Wednesday 3/26	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	12:00	KMA Luncheon
	5:30 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 3/27	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Saturday 3/29	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 3/30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Men's Banquet

Mark Your Calendars

March 30	Men's Banquet
April 6	Women's Banquet
April 20	Easter
May 4	Spring Concert
May 18	Youth Sunday
June 1	Grad Sunday
June 8	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 22	Over 80 Banquet



Men's Bounty of the Earth Banquet 2025 SUNDAY -March 30, 2025

Help! We need donations of game to serve at our Bounty of the Earth Men's Banquet. We will also be serving beef for those with less adventurous palettes.



Easter Flowers

Flowers may be purchased to place in the church for Easter. Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to St. John's Lutheran Church, 218 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA. Please include payment; if check, make out to *St. John's Lutheran Church* with the designation "*Easter flowers*" in the memo line. **Orders must be placed by March 26.** The cost of the flowers is as follows:

_____ Lilies	\$11.00
_____ Tulips	\$9.00
_____ Daffodils	\$9.00

In memory of

Given by:

In honor of _____

Given by: _____

_____ I will take my flower(s) after Easter Worship.

_____ Please take my flower(s) to a shut-in.

Paid (circle): Yes / Will pay later _____

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	John Swanson (E)
	Lance Whiteman (L)
Lector	Melissa Venesky (E)
	Deb Bouch (L)
Comm Assistants	Melissa Venesky & Becky Swanson (E)
	Susan Barto & Rose Montgomery (L)
Acolytes	Ava Rupp (E)
	William Bouch (L)
Welcome Team	Tammy Fleeeger & Connie McMaster (E)
	The Shafers (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E)
	Bill Bouch (L)

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

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.

*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.*

GRACE
happens



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA