

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

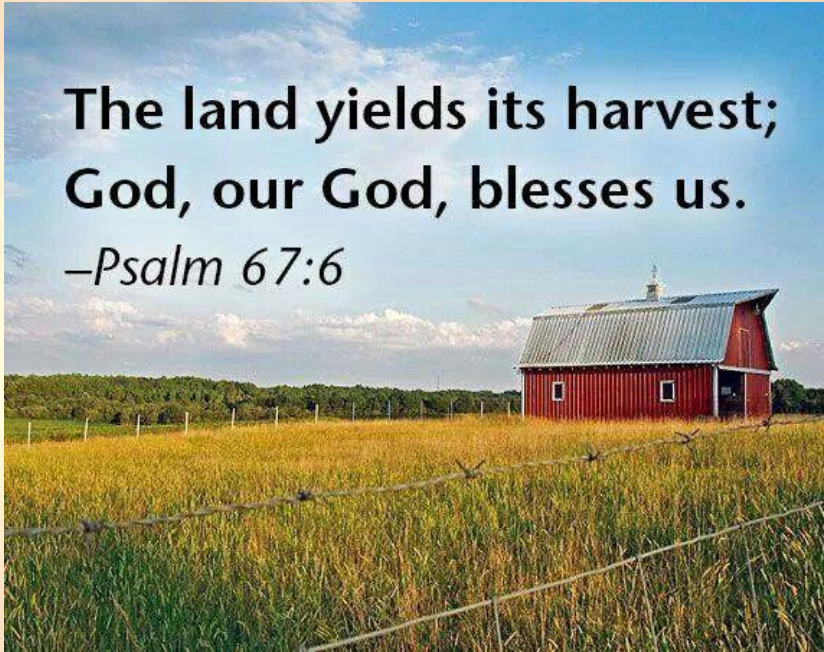
Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

August 16, 2026

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

**The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.**
—Psalm 67:6



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 **Twelfth 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:

Eternal God and Savior, You are present in every moment of our lives. You entered most powerfully through the sacrifice of Jesus. Enter now that we may honor Your sacrificial gift, and praise and thank You for Your love. Strengthen us through Your Word and sacrament to live in a manner that reflects the purposes that Jesus teaches us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE*"Voluntary"*

Stanley

***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"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"*

LBW 306

***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.



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

Lord, have mer - cy.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a half note B-flat, followed by a whole rest, then a half note G, a quarter note F, and finally a half note E.

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.



[illegible]

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

A musical staff in treble clef showing the melody for the first part of the hymn. It begins with a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and another whole note G4. After a double bar line, it continues with a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and finally a whole note B3.

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

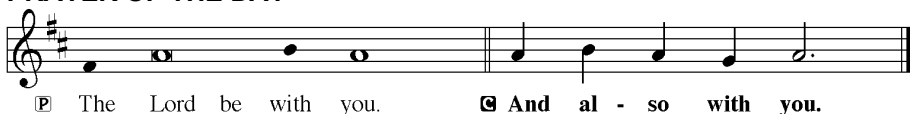

 A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

♩ 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.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given great and precious
promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which
overcomes all doubts, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

A The First Lesson is from the 56th chapter of Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸ The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,

“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

**²Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁶The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

⁷May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

SECOND LESSON:

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

A The Second Lesson is from the eleventh chapter of Romans. I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

A Here ends the reading.

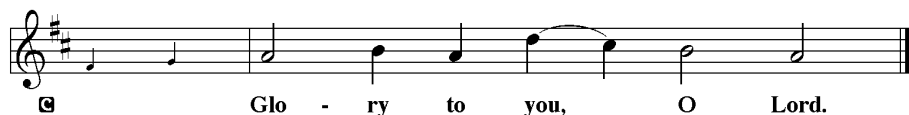
***VERSE**



GOSPEL:

Matthew 15:10–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifteenth chapter.



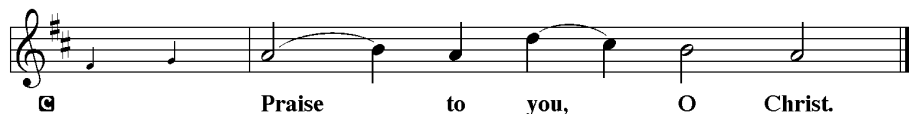
¹⁰ And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” ¹⁶ And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before

him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

LBW 429

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

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

Dear Father, we are slow to see others as your beloved children!

Soften our hearts to lead them into Jesus' presence. Help us to
discover that at the foot of his Cross, we truly are sisters and brothers.

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

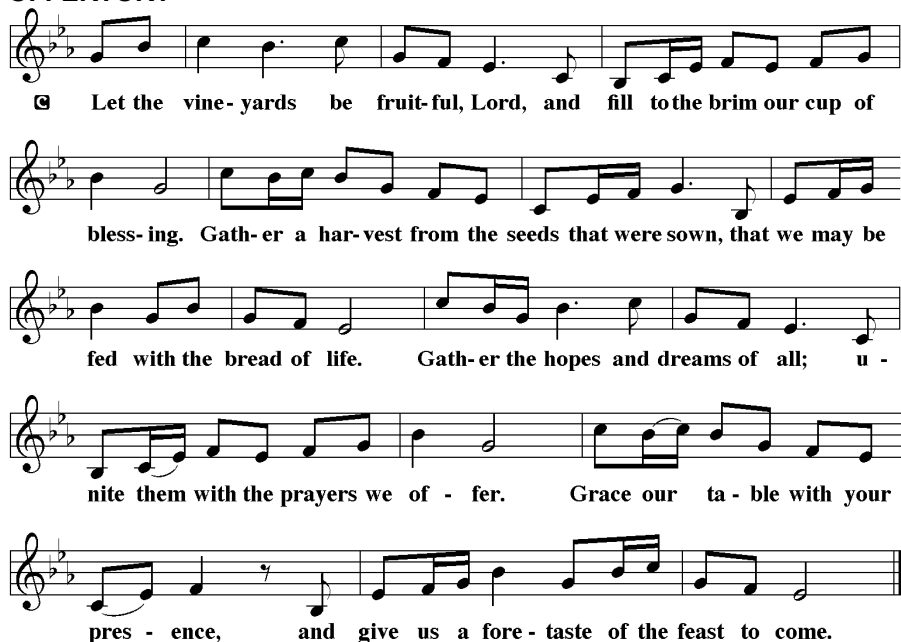
"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

arr. Smith

Jeanette Nestor, pianist

Rebecca Veith, organist

*OFFERTORY



C 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.

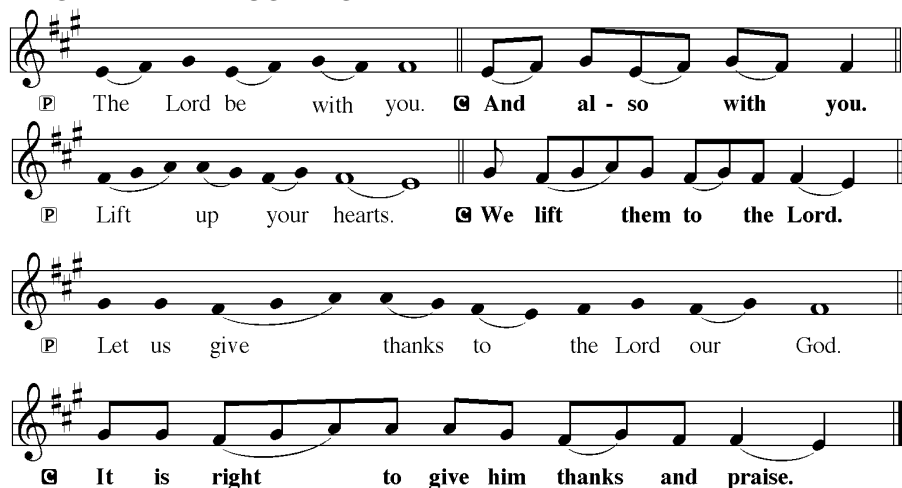
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

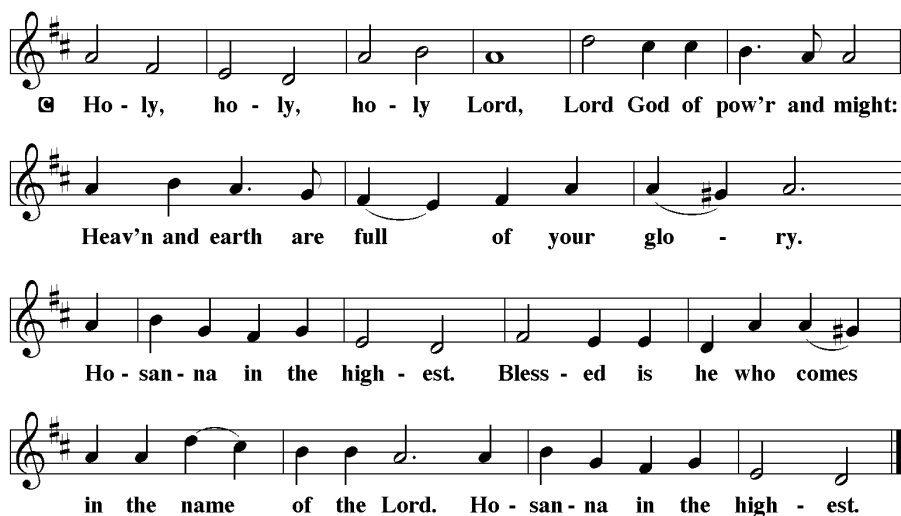
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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; 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:



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 HYMNS

LBW 203, 214, 222, WOV 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



C 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....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

"Beautiful Savior"

LBW 518

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Theme From "Jupiter"

Holst

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23015. English Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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

Catechism Classes to Begin

Catechism classes for students will begin on **September 10th** 2:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Thursday. **Parents only meeting September 3rd at 7:00 p.m.**



Catechism



Wednesday Bible Study
Book of Ephesians 6:30 pm

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 8/16	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation: Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
Wednesday 8/19	6:30 p.m.	P.J.'s Bible Study
Sunday 8/23	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 13	Rally Day
Sept 27	Progressive Workshop Dinner
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!**

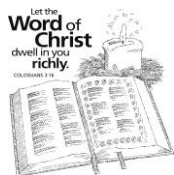
Scan the QR code for St. John's Lutheran Church: **Options Include:** *Local Expenses, Improvement Fund, Benevolence, Capital Appeal, Evangelism, Sunday School, Youth, World Hunger, Katie's Cupboard and Other.* **When choosing "Other" please indicate which fund you are contributing to.**
Thank you for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



♥ *jesus loves you* ♥

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>



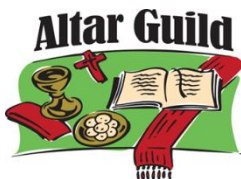
Don't forget to check out your Church Web

Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Here you will find: Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events, program information, and more.

We will be receiving New Members on Sunday, September 20th.

Please talk to Pastor Johnson if you would like to join St. John's.

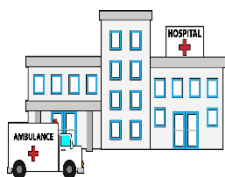
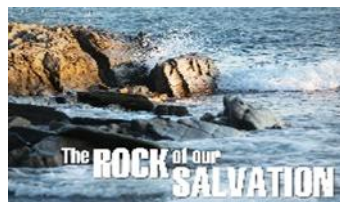


Needed for Altar Care:

We are still looking for volunteers to help with every Sunday, can you serve?

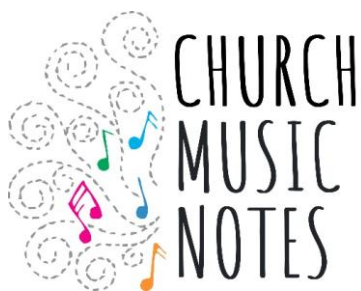
Rock of our Salvation Worship

**8:30 a.m. Sunday,
August 30th 2026**



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.



♪ As we look ahead to the fall, we anticipate some openings for ringers in the bell choir. Some music experience is helpful but not required. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:15.

♪ We are also hopeful that we can get some more guys to sing with us in the vocal choir. Please keep that in prayer.

♪ Special thanks to Robert John for moving the bell cabinets to the choir room. That was a huge undertaking that is really appreciated. We now can have all the bell music in one area!

Rebecca Veith
Director of Music



Sharing the Bounty

At times our gardens under produce and at times they over produce. Over producing gives us the opportunity to share with others. Place on the table, next to the water cooler in the Gathering Space, your over abundance to share.

Please feel free to take from the table what you like and can use. Some weeks there may be lots, others maybe not so much.

You do not need to put anything on the table in order to enjoy a share from the table. There will be a container with plastic bags under the table for your goodies.

Enjoy!



Rally Day Breakfast - September 13th at 9:45 a.m. in the Social Hall

Join us as we kick off a new year of Sunday School with our Rally Day intergenerational celebration, including light breakfast. Orientation for all students, come and meet your teacher! Games and fun!

Come join the fun and fellowship!



NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

DISASTER RESPONSE

“The Bucket List”

Your help is needed! For the 3rd time this year, Pennsylvania and specifically southern and southwest PA have experienced severe storms and flooding.

The NALC Disaster Response national warehouse is empty. Every warehouse east of the Mississippi River is empty. Heartlands Mission District is flooding, as is the Great Rivers Mission District, and Ohio Mission Region. We are emptying all of these regional warehouses.

- ✓ **1 five-gallon bucket with lid**
- ✓ **1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or smaller)**
- ✓ **2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil)**
- ✓ **1 roll paper towels**
- ✓ **2 rags**
- ✓ **Comet or scouring cleanser**
- ✓ **Pine Sol or liquid cleaner**
- ✓ **Scrub brush**
- ✓ **Gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred**
 - **Rubber (reusable, i.e. Platex, dishwashing type)**
 - **Leather**
 - **Cotton**



Additionally, we will be accepting used Bibles, in any condition. You are encouraged to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles.

If you do not wish to shop for any of these items, we welcome cash donations so that the Social Ministry Committee can do the shopping for you. **As always – Thank you for your support!**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers

Julie Smith (E)

Kay Thorell (L)

Lectors

Melissa Venesky (E)

Charlie Bleakney (L)

Comm Assistants

Amber Zurn, Melissa Venesky (E)

The Bouch Family (L)

Acolytes

TBA (E)

TBA (L)

Camera Operators

Nick Wranich (E)

Bill Bouch (L)

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

Julie Smith

Secretary

Angela B. Clever

Sexton

TBD

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 to God and in loving memory of Gary Charles Duncan given by his wife Sandra Duncan.

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



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA

