

# 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](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

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

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**December 21, 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 **Fourth 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. Create in our hearts the spirit of humility so that we may stand receptive in the presence of Your coming; and shine through us so that all may see in us the true love and greatness of You. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE***"Pastorale in F Major"**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**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN***"Fling Wide the Door"**LBW 32***\*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.**

[illegible]

**A** 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.**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of Your birth, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

## Isaiah 7:10–16

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**  
**ADVENT READING**

LBW 34. v 1-4

**PSALM 80:1–7, 16–18**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup>and Manasseh, stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup>come to help us.

<sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD | God of hosts,**

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision <sup>1</sup> of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh <sup>1</sup> us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- | way from you;

give us life, that we may call up-<sup>1</sup> on your name.

**<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**

**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## Romans 1:1-7

**A** The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was

descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A** Here ends the reading.

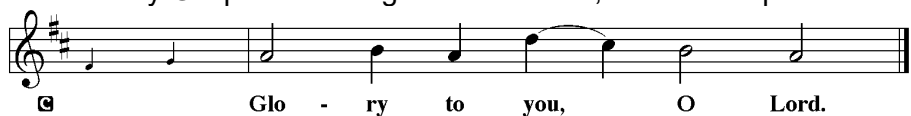
**\*VERSE**



**GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 1:18–25**

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

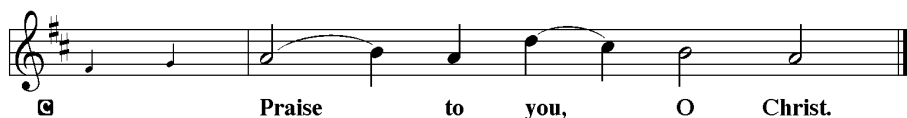


<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*"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

#### \*THE PRAYERS

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

*A brief silence*

O come, Emmanuel, our Lord and God, our King and Brother! Come  
with healing and blessing, with light and life. Come and save us all from  
sin and evil and endless death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(Other intercessions are offered)*

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

**C** Amen

#### \*PEACE

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

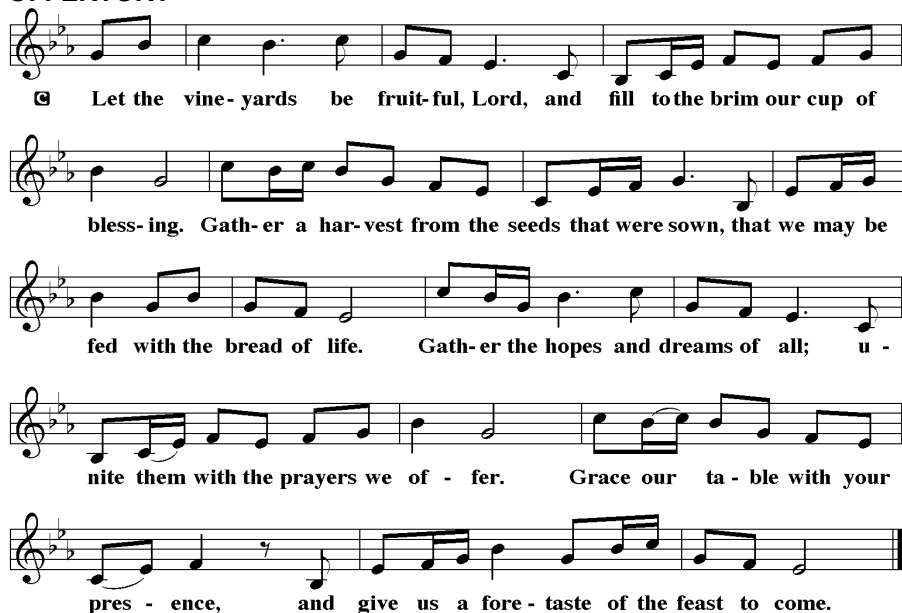
**C** And also with you.

## ANTHEM

*"Song of Mary"*

Wetzler

## \*OFFERTORY



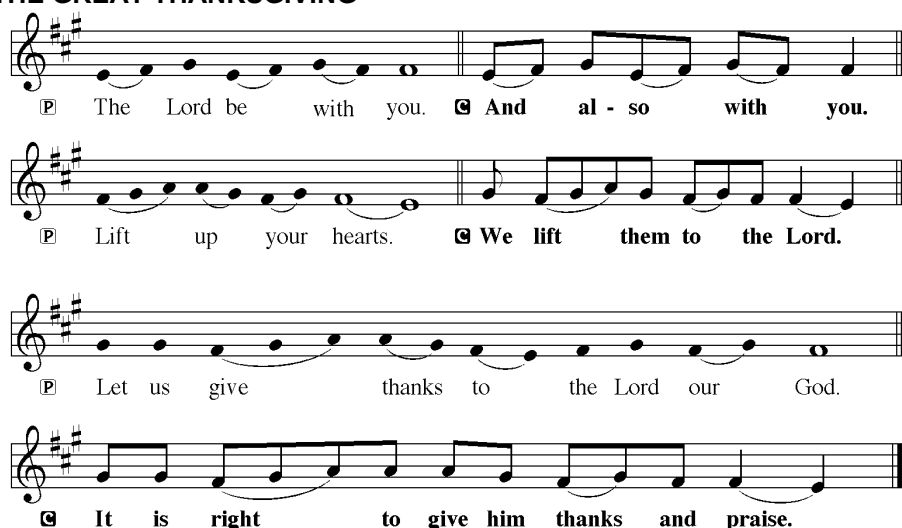
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** 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.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.



**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, almighty and ever living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. 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**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

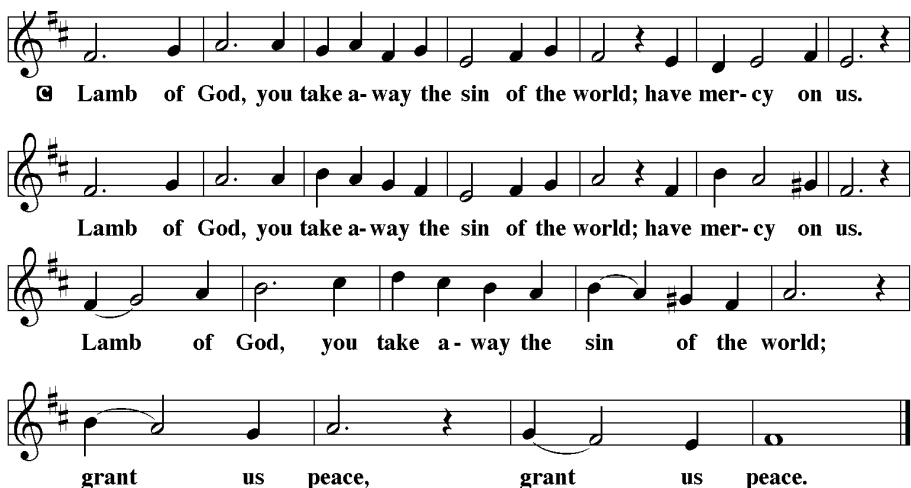
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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 198, 25, 26, WOV 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)*

The body of Christ, given for you.

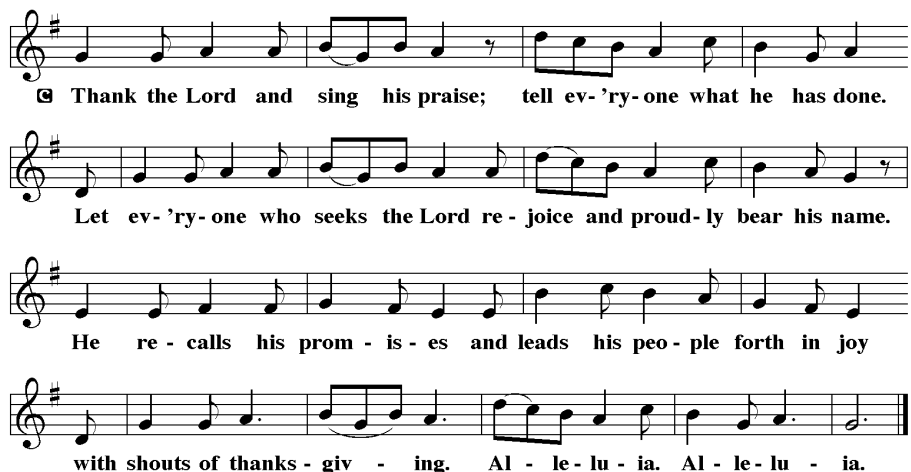
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**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.

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.... 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.



## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

*LBW 28*

## \*DISMISSAL

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*"Noel Suisse"*

*Daquin*

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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.*

## Mark Your Calendars

January 25	Congregational Meeting
February 18	Ash Wednesday
March 14	CPR Certification
April 5	Easter
May 3	Spring Concert
May 24	Pentecost Sunday (Confirmation)

**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 and program information, Youth Events including photos from the recent QUAKE trip, and more.



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



## **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."**



## **Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast**

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>

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

*Amounts needed in offerings during November and December to meet our budget in the following accounts:*

Current Account:	\$98,000.00
Benevolence:	\$24,000.00

**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.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

**Sunday 12/21**

10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
After worship	Christmas Decorating

**Wednesday 12/24**

7:00 p.m.	Worship: Communion
11:00 p.m.	Worship: Communion

**Thursday 12/25**

**Merry Christmas**

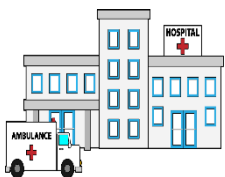
Office Closed

**Friday 12/26**

Office Closed

**Sunday 12/28**

8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship: Hymn Sing



### 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.***



## 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.

**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. You may also call the church office. **Flowers are \$70.00.**



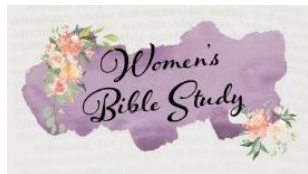


**SPARK**  
IGNITING FAITH, EQUIPPING KIDS

... at St. Johns Kittanning  
**Jan. 20th 6:15-7:30pm**  
Dinner, Bible Story,  
Exciting, faith building  
interactive stations with games,  
crafts and activities!  
**Preschool-6th Grade**  
**COST: FREE!**  
Parents! Stay and hang out,  
relax and rest, or run some errands!  
Please Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321  
for weather updates,  
announcements and reminders  
**REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT**  
[www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning](http://www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning)

## Women's Bible Study . . .

. . . will return at the King's restaurant on  
**Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Any questions,  
please contact Rose Montgomery at  
[rosetrix38@comcast.net](mailto:rosetrix38@comcast.net). All are welcome!



# JESUS LOVES YOU!



## How important to you is the Music Ministry at St Johns?

When Ralph and I started coming to St John's over thirty years ago, I was taken in by the wonderful choir and how uplifting the Anthems were. Singing to the glory of God is seen in the Old Testament. The psalms were sung and they emphasized worship, trust and praise for God's unfailing love and power.

The Anthems are an integral part of the worship service. To continue praising God through these Anthems, we need members of St. John's (particularly male voices) to join the choir. We are fortunate to have talented musicians amongst our choir members and Rebecca and Liz do a phenomenal job leading the choir. So please consider joining.

Blessings,  
*Michelle Kozlowski*



Many thanks to everyone . . .

. . . the singers, ringers, musicians, staff, and others who put in countless hours to rehearse or have contributed in other ways to make the Advent and Christmas Season a special time for all.

We are blessed to have such a talented and dedicated group of people that contribute to the St. Johns music ministry throughout the entire church year!

**After Christmas, choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday,  
January 7, 2026.**

*Rebecca Veith*  
Organist/Director of Music

Amazing Grace  
how sweet the sound



## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers  
Lectors  
Communion

Sara Shafer  
Elijah Holt  
Charlie Bleakney & Corina Blose  
Sophia & Elijah Holt  
Kendall Bailey  
The Bailey & Jazwinski Families  
Nick Wranich

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

*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.*

## 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.

