

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

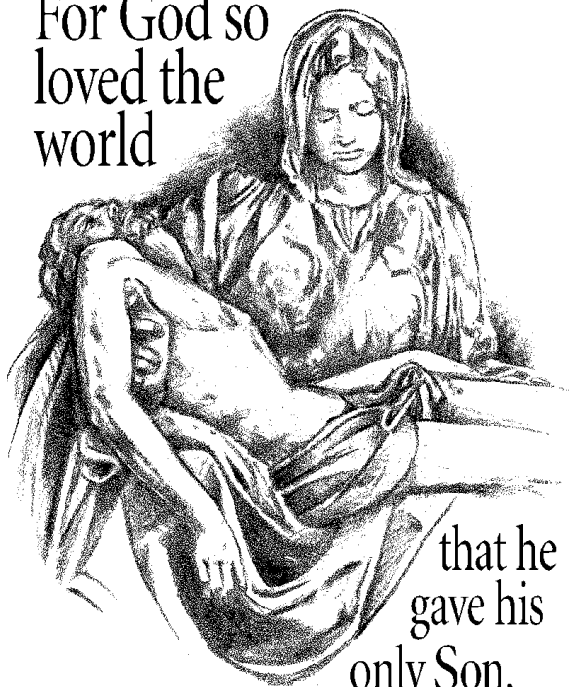
Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

September 14, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

For God so
loved the
world



that he
gave his
only Son.

John 3:16

St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Holy Cross Day**. 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:

Loving Father, whatever stage of life we are in – infant, child, adult, elder – we know we can turn to You for comfort. Thank you for our life, may we use it to serve and honor You. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Meditation on Songs of the Cross”

Hughes

***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**

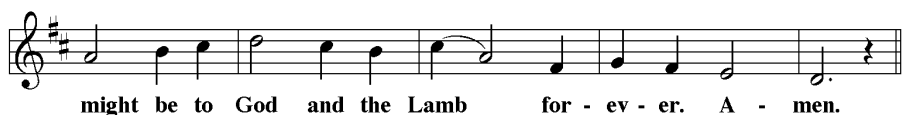
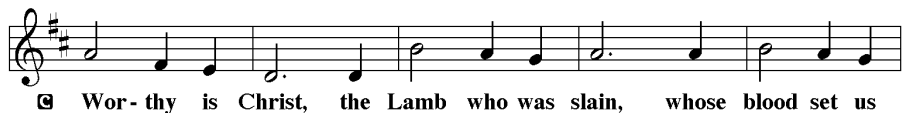
“Lift High the Cross”

LBW 377

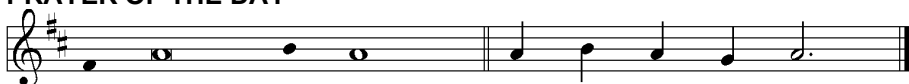
***GREETING**

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.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our salvation may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON:

NUMBERS 21:4B–9

A The First Lesson is from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers.

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 98:1–5



Sing to the LORD | a new song,*
for He has done | marvelous things.

**²With His right hand and His | holy arm*
has He won for Him- | self the victory.**

³The LORD has made | known His victory,*
His righteousness has He openly shown in the sight | of the nations.

**⁴He remembers His mercy and faithfulness
to the | house of Israel,*
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory | of our God.**

⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;*
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

SECOND LESSON:

1 Corinthians 1:18–24

A The Second Lesson is from the 18th chapter of First Corinthians.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

A Here ends the reading.

GENEROSITY TEMPLE TALK: THE JOY OF GIVING

***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 3:13–17

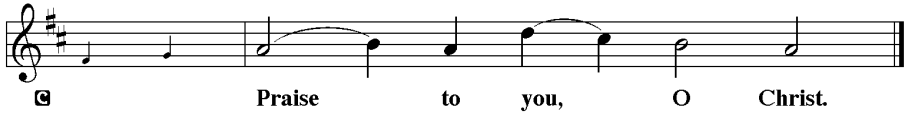
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the third chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"* *LBW 104*

SERMON **LUTHER'S THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS**

***THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Holy God, thank you for Jesus! Thank you for making him our good Shepherd, for loving us so much that you give us forgiveness, life, fellowship with you, and love beyond all telling. Thank you most of all for giving us your Son, crucified, raised, and ascended to your right hand for our salvation. 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

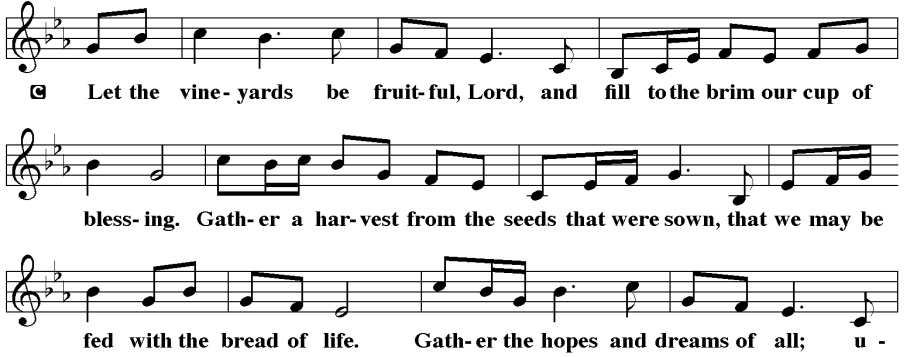
***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM *"I Am Thine, O Lord"* *Pinkston*

***OFFERTORY**



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 Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, 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**

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:

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 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**

***ANGUS DEI**



☐ 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 205, 198, 107, 203, 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**



☐ 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.



G A - men

RECESSIONAL HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" **LBW 482**

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Christ the Cornerstone" **Price**

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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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 9/14	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation: Communion
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	6:00 p.m.	Campfire and Youth Group
Monday 9/15	6:00 p.m.	Evangelism
	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship, Christian Ed.
Tuesday 9/16	6:15-7:30 p.m.	SPARK Kick-off
	7:00 p.m.	Pre-baptismal Class
Wednesday 9/17	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	6:15 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	PJ's Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 9/18	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Sunday 9/21	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	Noon	Progressive Workshop Luncheon
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Ignition Event



Wednesday Bible Study

Beginning September 10th 7:00 pm

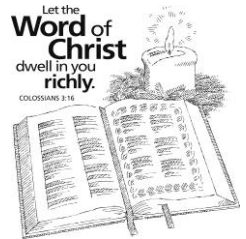
The Nicene Creed celebrates its 1700th birthday this year. In celebration of this milestone, Pastor Johnson will be leading a Bible Study on the Nicene Creed. Every statement in the creed can be found in the Bible. We will go through the creed line by line and looking up each Bible verse that supports the statements.

Come explore why this statement of faith was so important and continues to be so important for the faith.

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.

Beginning **September 14th**, 2025



Catechism

Catechism Classes to Begin

Catechism classes for students will begin on **September 18th** 2:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Thursday.



Mojo texting was created FOR churches! It is safe and doesn't sell your number to anyone else!

If you would like to receive schedule changes, updates, reminders and announcements from St. John's, please text the following words to **724-276-5321**. It will send you a welcome message.

Text **SPARK** to receive schedule changes regarding SPARK.

Text **GRACE** to receive general church information.

Text **ACOLYTE** to receive the sign-up calendar.

Text **YOUTH** for Youth Group reminders.

Text **CAMPFIRE** for announcements regarding Campfire!



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."**



We will be receiving New Members on Sunday September 28th.

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

Just a note to say *THANK YOU* to the folks of St Johns for serving our Risen, Living Lord Jesus by sustaining our neighbors thru Katie's Cupboard. Please know your contributions, efforts to stock, clean, sort and maintain are noticed in the community and are a blessing to many beyond measure. With Fall and Winter approaching, see the October newsletter for a list of suggestions.



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Schedule Change

Women's Bible Study . . .

. . . will return at the King's restaurant on **Tuesday, October 14th at noon.** Any

questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at

rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!





**Children's hour . . .
will be back 2 days a week!
WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY**

9:30-11:00am

ages 2 ½ -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 ½ to 5 yrs old. Moms, Grandparents, Caregivers, Babies all are welcome! Every week we present a structured Children's program that blends preschool concepts with fun Biblical lessons. Children develop their creativity and imagination with crafts, games, Bible stories, lessons, snacks, and hands-on activities to learn Biblical values and have preschool fun! The cost is just a donation of \$1.00 per class/NOT required to pay to attend!

FALL 2025 begins Wednesday Sept. 10th & Thursday Sept. 11th @ St. John's Lutheran Church 218 N. Jefferson, right next to the Library!

Please join us or tell someone that may be interested!!...

Call 724-548-2051 or email: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

Children & Youth

Sept. 14th: First day of Sunday School Classes! 10am

Sept 14th: Campfire 6:00-6:45pm... Then Youth Group. Grades 6-12, until 8:00pm

Sept. 16th: SPARK Kids Kick Off Night. 6:15-7:30

Sept. 21st: Acolyte Training @9:30am, new and refresher

Sept. 21st: Youth Group Ignition Event. Dinner @ 3:45, leave @4pm,

Sept. 24th: See You At The Pole! 7am at your high school!

Sept. 28th: Campfire- All Ages - @ 6:00pm... Youth Group following

Later in the Fall . . .

October: Bring a Friend Sunday, Spark & Trunk R Treat, Student Habitat Volunteer Day, Reformation Sunday Activities

November: Spark Kids Super Hero... Retreat Day! 9-3, Nov. 11th Youth Group Lock In! Light Up Night Out reach, Youth Field Trip

December: Spark Christmas Party! Local Volunteering opportunity for Jr/Sr HS Students. . . & St. John's All Ages Christmas Pageant.



**GENEROSITY SUNDAY,
OCT. 5, 2025
RESERVATIONS DUE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

*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 5th.

_____ Yes _____ No

The number of people attending from my household will be

NAME: _____

Phone: _____

*Faithfully spreading the Gospel in Armstrong County
and throughout the world
for over 200 years*

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	John Swanson (E) Gene Hughes (L)
Lector	Brendan Swanson (E) Charlie Bleakney (L)
Comm Assistants	Becky Swanson & Melissa Venesky (E) Lance & Christine Whiteman, Lori Young, TBA (L)
Acolyte	Gracie Hodak (E) Bill Bouch (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 of God and in honor of Alan and Betty Mitchell's 17th wedding anniversary.

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



St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA