

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 24, 2022

7:00 p.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 the Service of Word and Sacrament as we celebrate **the Nativity of Our Lord**. 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:

Grant, O Lord, that the glory, the beauty, and the peace of this Holy Night, may fill our hearts and our lives, so that He, who has been born anew in our hearts this Christmas, may live fully among us throughout all of the coming year. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* *arr. Wilbur Held*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"* *LBW 45*

***THE DIALOG**

P: Glory to God in the Highest.

C: **And peace to His people on earth.**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

P: and all that is within me bless His holy name.

C: **Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

P: and forget not His benefits.

C: **for unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray....

Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

BELL ANTHEM *"Joy to the World"* *arr. Eithun*
New Bells under the direction of Deb Bouch

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2-7

A: The First Lesson is from the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been

born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A: Here ends the reading.

PSALM

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**²Sing to the LORD and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND LESSON:

TITUS 2:11–14

A The Second Lesson is from the second chapter of Titus.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the

present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL READING & CHILDREN'S SERMON: LUKE 2:1-20

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the LORD.

SERMON

***THE PRAYERS**

A: Let us pray that Jesus brings light, salvation, and peace to the church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to your cradle with joy and wonder, adoring you for your loving-kindness. Thank you for making yourself small and meek that we might approach you gladly and without fear. Thank you, dear Jesus; accept our hearts as our best and loving gift. 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

***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM

“A Christmas Hallelujah”

arr. Cohen

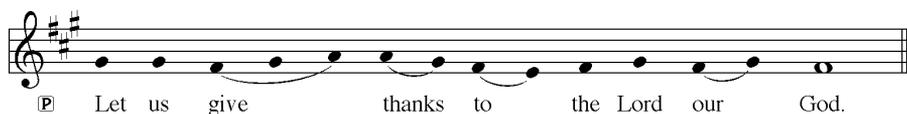
Junior Choir with Tim Marasco - guitar

***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



*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give You thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us Your will. He is Your Word, inseparable from You. Through Him You created all things, and in Him You take delight. He is Your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is He, our LORD Jesus, who fulfilled all Your will and won for You a holy people; He stretched out His hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust You.

It is He who, handed over to a death He freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish His covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to You, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, His death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before You, giving You thanks that You have made us worthy to stand before You and to serve You as Your priestly people.

And we ask You: Send Your Spirit upon these gifts of Your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with Your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify You through Your Son Jesus Christ.

Through Him all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church both now and forever.

C: Amen

*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

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

Children are invited forward to be blessed.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers

*For those that require special dietary restrictions, we have gluten-free communion wafers.
(Please inform the Pastor of your needs.)*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Please sing two verses of each hymn:

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	LBW 67
<i>The First Noel</i>	LBW 56
<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	LBW 55
<i>Angels, From the Realms of Glory</i>	LBW 50
<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	LBW 54
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	LBW 44

*BLESSING

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

C: Amen

***CANTICLE HYMN** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* LBW 60

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

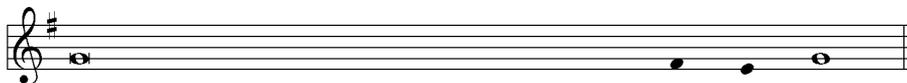
A: Let us pray Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our LORD.

C: Amen

***CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN** *“Silent Night”* LBW 65

Light from the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath will be taken by the Pastor and passed to light other candles (hold lit candle straight up; tilt only the unlit candle). Please do not drop wax.

*BENEDICTION



☩ 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.



☩ A - men

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** *“Joy to the World”* LBW 39

POSTLUDE *“From Heaven Above”* arr. Wilbur Held

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Our sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of our choirs, to our choir directors, to our organist, pianist, and to our instrumental accompanists for the beautiful special music in our service this evening. We also thank Kay Thorell for gracing us with her presence at the organ this evening, Deb Bouch for directing the New bells and Tim Marasco for accompanying the Junior Choir on the guitar. Their talents are greatly appreciated and celebrated!

We welcome you and are pleased you are participating in our Service of Word and Sacrament this evening as we celebrate the Birth of Christ. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us. Children are invited forward to be blessed. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. **If you are a visitor**, please complete a "Visitor's Card" from a pew rack and place it in the offering.

This evening we light the **Christ Candle** on our Advent Wreath. This candle symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior and Light of the world.

You're Invited!
The Celebration Continues Tomorrow Morning:
Sunday, December 25th
11:00 a.m. Worship

***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:	\$82,000.00
Benevolence:	\$20,000.00

Every 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! 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.

****** The office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th.**



**Christmas poinsettias are presented to the Glory of God
and in honor of: By:**

Children, Jeff, Jason & Wendy Debnar	Emil & Rose Debnar
Grandchildren, Rochelle, Zachary, Tyler & Jaslyn Debnar	Emil & Rose Debnar
Our Children & Grandchildren	Roger & Cheryl Mechling
Carol Runninger	Donna Livengood
My family	Carol Runninger
Christina Hilty, Donald Hilty, Bridget Hilty, Aidan Confer	
Kherington Hilty & Erik Sapp	Andrea Ehrman
Stephen, Celeste, Adelaide, Cecilia, Juliette	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Stephen, Rebecca, Liam & Mara Lash	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Richard Fite	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Grandson, Bryce	Bill & Crystal Olinger
Our Grandchildren, Emma & Landon Kirkpatrick	Denny & Patty Kirkpatrick
Chris & Connie Choncek, Brandon, Tyler & Anna	Butch Choncek
Jeff, Austin, & Ashleigh Choncek	Butch Choncek
Kendall, Brendon, Christopher, Ashley, Allison & Mitchell	Steve & Diana Ignatz
My family	Gene Hughes
Our family	Janet & Larry Means
Family & friends	Ryan & Sara Shafer
Mary Anne Dalmagro	Rebecca Johnson
My Family—especially Erik	Rebecca Johnson
For all those fighting cancer	Rebecca Johnson



**Christmas poinsettias are presented to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of: By:**

Dale & Jeane Smart	Ruth Ann & Daniel D. Crawford
William Hartung	Vera Hartung
Walt & Mick Charley	Dave & Linda Charley
Deceased family members	Roger & Cheryl Mechling
Jim & Loretta Kissinger	Bill & Crystal Olinger
John & Delma Olinger	Bill & Crystal Olinger
Linda Lindeman	David Lindeman
James & Edith Tubbs	Jazwinski & Bailey families

Murray W. Calhoun	Gary & Sandy Duncan
Charles & Norma Duncan	Gary & Sandy Duncan
Robert & Rose Jazwinski	Jazwinski & Bailey families
Murray W. Calhoun	Gary & Sandy Duncan
Charles & Norma Duncan	Gary & Sandy Duncan
Raymond L. Smith	Naomi Smith
Loved ones	Gloria Sgro & Sandra Hellam
Wayne Hilty & Ronald Ehrman	Andrea Ehrman
Harry & Regina Neidig	Jane Neidig
Jean Neidig	Jane Neidig
Don Runniger	Carol Runniger
My parents, William & Elnora Montgomery	Rose Montgomery
My brothers & sisters, Harvey, Jacob, Gladys & Janet	Rose Montgomery
Russ, Ida, Bill McElwain & Betty McElwain Toy	Tom & Cindy Lamison &
Christy, Jamie, Gage, Logan & Lakyn Duncan-Lamison	
Ray H. Law	Cindy Law
William Mechling	Ryan & Sara Shafer
Bob & Doris Smail	Steve & Diana Ignatz
Stephen & Alice Ignatz	Steve & Diana Ignatz
Gaye Hughes	Gene Hughes
Jeffrey Picardi Hughes	Gene Hughes
Dennis Hughes	Gene Hughes
Esther Choncek	Butch Choncek
Derian Keefer	Donna Livengood
Don Runniger	Donna Livengood
John & Delma Olinger	Toni & Rick Smail & family
Donna Cooper	Allen & Kristie Cooper & family
Jim & Ginny Brown	Toni & Rick Smail & famiy
Barbara Schaub	Pete Schaub
Henry & Cheryl Livengood	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Cheryl Fite	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Donald Runniger	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
John Dalmagro	Rebecca Johnson
Phyllis & Eric Johnson	Rebecca Johnson
Mary Abate	Rebecca Johnson
Parents, John & Delma Olinger	Patty & Mary Olinger
Aunt Ginny Brown	Payton & Paige Smail
Jim & Virginia Olinger Brown	Patty & Mary Olinger

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	Deb Bouch
Lector	Emily Bouch
Communion Assistants	Deb & Mollie Bouch
Acolyte	William Bouch
Welcome Teams	Bailey & Jazwinski families
Camera Operator	Bill Bouch

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Christine Lettrich
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer
Sexton	Michael Craft

St. John's Kittanning streaming live on YouTube at St. John's Kittanning.

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