

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: 724-548-5512

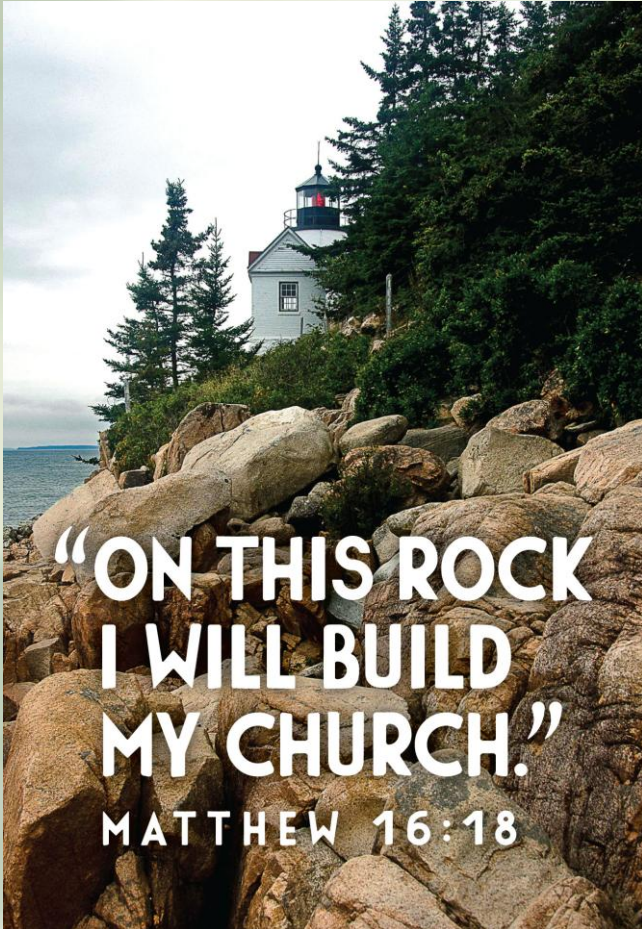
Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

August 23, 2026

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 **Thirteenth 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:

Heavenly Father, endow us richly with Your Spirit, and by Your grace, sustain our faith, dispelling our doubts and confusion, and keep us faithful to Your Word. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

*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

"The Church's One Foundation"

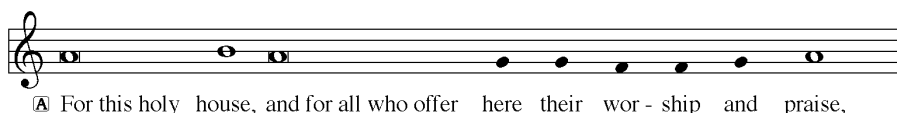
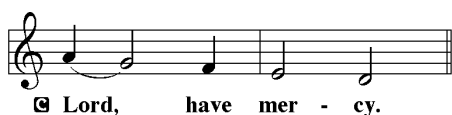
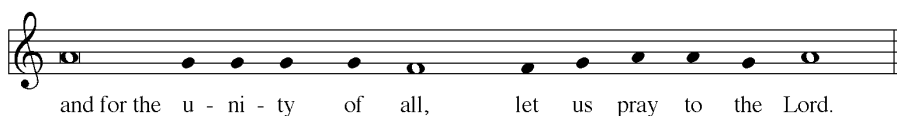
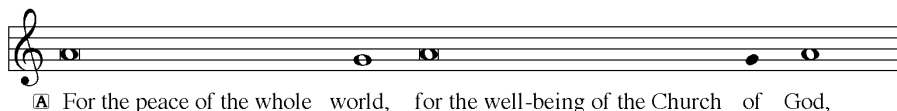
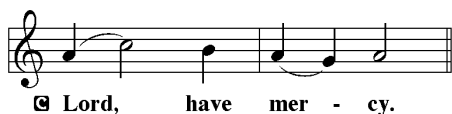
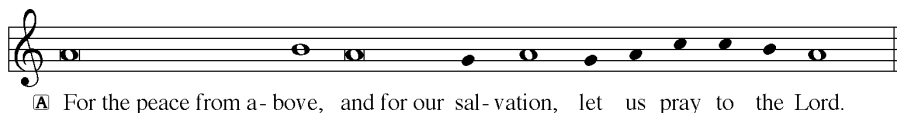
LBW 369

*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



*HYMN OF PRAISE





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,

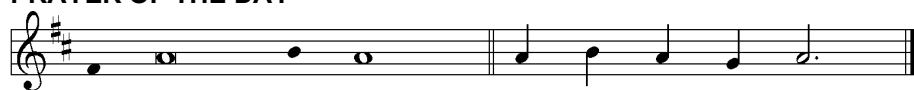


you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



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.

God of all creation, You reach out to call people of all nations to Your kingdom. As You gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess Your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 51:1-6

A The First Lesson is from the fifty-first chapter of Isaiah.

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,

you who seek the LORD:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,

and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father

and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴"Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 138

I will give thanks to You, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing Your praise.

**²I will bow down toward Your holy temple
and praise Your name,
because of Your love and faithfulness;**

³for You have glorified Your name
and Your word above all things.

**⁴When I called, You answered me;
You increased my strength within me.**

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise You, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of Your mouth.

**⁶They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.**

⁷Though the LORD be high, He cares for the lowly;
He perceives the haughty from afar.

**⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You keep me safe;
You stretch forth Your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
Your right hand shall save me.**

⁹The LORD will make good His purpose for me;
O LORD, Your love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of Your hands.

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 12:1-8

A The Second Lesson is from the twelfth chapter of Romans. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

A Here ends the reading.



GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 16:13-20

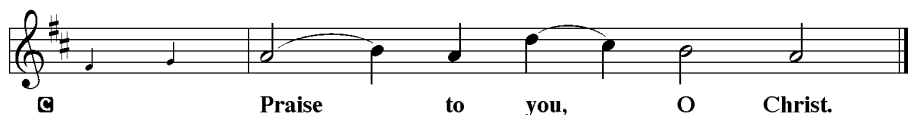
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter.



¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon

Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

“Built on a Rock”

LBW 365

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

ANTHEM

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

Sally Marasco, autoharp & Tim Marasco, guitar

***OFFERTORY**





joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*THE PRAYERS

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for Peter! He was so very human, and yet you gave him faith to confess Jesus as your Son and Messiah. As you used him, please use us to do your work of forgiving, confessing, and proclaiming Jesus as Lord to the world.

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

*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**

*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

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LBW 294

*DISMISSAL

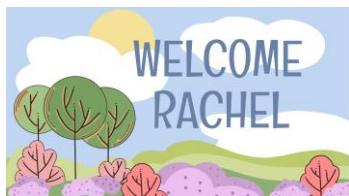
A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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



We welcome Rachel Stirling to the organ this morning as she substitutes for Rebecca.

Thank you Rachel!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday 8/24	6:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Worship & Music
Thursday 8/27	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Mailing
Sunday 8/30	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation: 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."**



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!**



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>

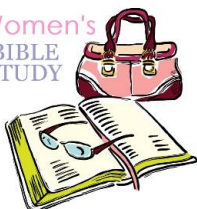
Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:

www.stjohnskittanning.org

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



Women's
BIBLE
STUDY



Women's Bible Study

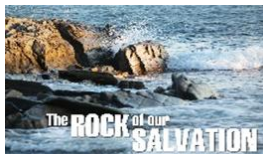
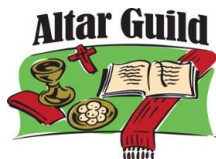
... will return at the King's restaurant on

Tuesday, September 8th at noon. Any

questions, please contact Cheryl Mechling at rock92@comcast.net. All are welcome!

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**

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!



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

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

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers

Nancy Pierce (E)

Keith Livengood (L)

Lector

Linda Charley (E)

Elijah Holt (L)

Comm Assistants

Karen Waugaman & Nancy Pierce (E)

Acolytes

TBA (E)

TBA (L)

Camera Operators

Nick Wranich (E)

TBA (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 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. **Flowers are \$70.00.**

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

