

# 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 25, 2022**

**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 the Service of Word and Sacrament this morning 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:*

*Oh Lord, as You brought light to the darkness of this world through the incarnation of Your Holy Son, so bring Your light to our hearts that we might shine as beacons of Your hope to all who need Your light. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Christmas Fantasia"*

*Young*

**\*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**

**\*ENTRANCE HYMN**

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**\*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.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

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**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**



☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In Your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**FIRST LESSON**

**ISAIAH 52:7-10**

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

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**A** Here ends the reading.

## PSALM

PSALM 98:1–9

Sing to the LORD a new song,\*  
for he has done marvelous things.

**<sup>2</sup>With his right hand and his holy arm\*  
has he won for him- self the victory.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has made known his victory;\*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**<sup>4</sup>He remembers his mercy and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel,\***

**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

<sup>5</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;\*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**<sup>6</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,\*  
with the harp and the voice of song.**

<sup>7</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn\*  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,\*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

<sup>9</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,\*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

**<sup>10</sup>In righteousness shall he judge the world\*  
and the peoples with equity.**

## HYMN OF JOY

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### SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 1:1–12

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

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup> And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,

and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end."

**A** Here ends the reading

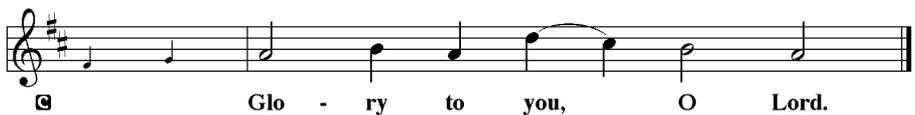
**\*VERSE**



**GOSPEL:**

**JOHN 1:1-18**

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



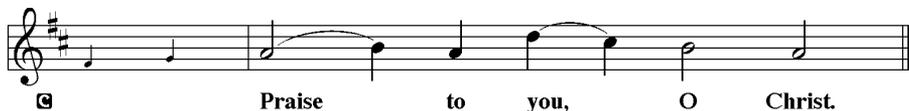
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

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### 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

*"The Snow Lay on the Ground"*

*arr. Sowerby*

### \*OFFERTORY

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**\*THE PRAYERS**

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

*A brief silence*

O Word made flesh, who dwells among us, bless the Church with a glimpse of your glory. Let it worship with the angels' adoration, the bliss of Mother Mary, the quiet goodness of Joseph, and the reverence of the shepherds. Give it words to proclaim your glory and love, especially to those who do not know you. Through its witness, unite the world in the song first sung at your birth: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!" 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 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.



**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*"In Dulci Jubilo"*

*Bach*

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Report  
**DEADLINE**

## ANNUAL REPORTS

All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers; ***please submit your reports to the church office by January 6th.*** Our goal is to have the reports ready **2 weeks** prior to the Annual meeting January 29th. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it! If possible, please e-mail your report to:

[stjohnskittanning@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskittanning@gmail.com)

### THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

<b>Sunday 12/25</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday 12/26</b>		Office Closed
<b>Tuesday 12/27</b>		Office Closed
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group Party & Caroling
<b>Sunday 1/1</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
<b>Monday 1/2</b>		Office Closed

The staff at St. John's wishes you a blessed Christmas and New Year!

In observance of the holidays, the church office will be closed  
December 26<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup> 2022, & January 2, 2023.

## ***Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 29th***

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2023 and elect an endowment trustee.



**Youth Group Ugly Sweater Christmas Party**  
and singing to the Shut-ins!  
**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-9pm**  
including Youth Group games  
and cookies to follow caroling!



**The flower chart for 2023 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. The price of altar flowers is \$50.00. Thank you!



**Next Pastor's Study**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 2023**  
**@ 7:00 p.m.**  
Book of Revelation

The study will follow the book, "Power and Purpose," by Pastor Russell Lackey who says that we have been asking all the wrong questions and therefore losing our focus on what the book is really trying to say. Come explore this very misunderstood book of the Bible.

***This study is for entry level students!***

*You do not need to know anything about the Bible in order to attend!*





## Vanco Electronic Giving APP

**You can make a contribution to St. John's through a mobile app!**

To get started, download "Vanco Mobile" for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "Vanco Mobile" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history. We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry and thank you for your support!

1. Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone.
2. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church.
3. Do NOT use a PERIOD after St, or comma in Johns to search.
4. Select St Johns Lutheran Church, 218 North Jefferson St, Kittanning PA.
5. Your information should be automatically transferred if you have an account with Give Plus already.
6. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
7. Log in or donate as a guest.
8. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Camera Operator

Deb Bouch  
Karen Waugaman  
Mollie Bouch  
Bill Bouch

## STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry  
Secretary  
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music  
Sr. Choir Accompanist  
Sexton

Julie Smith  
Christine Lettrich  
Rebecca Veith  
Elizabeth Cramer  
Michael Craft



**The flowers on the altar** this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Carol Runniger's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday from Donna Livengood and family.

## 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*



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**Kittanning, PA**