

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 6, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



For where two
or three are gathered
in my name,
there am I among them.

MATTHEW 18:20
(ESV)

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 **Fifteenth 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:

We bow before You, Lord God, seeking to serve You wherever You place us. Guide our lives in faith to discern Your will. Give us courage to speak and act as instruments of Your love and truth. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE*"Love Divine"**arr. Hamlin****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"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"**LBW 230****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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



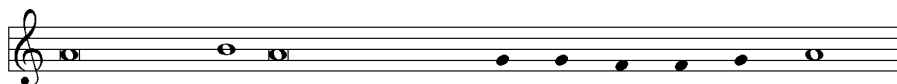
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

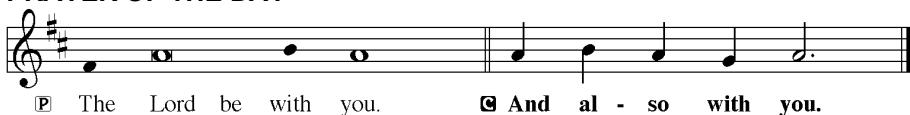


G Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al-so with you.

P Let us pray.
Almighty and eternal God, You know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In Your love and by Your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON:

EZEKIEL 33:7-11

A The First Lesson is from the thirty-third chapter of Ezekiel.

⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰ “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A Here ends the reading

PSALM:

PSALM 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.

**³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life**

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 13:8-14

A The Second Lesson is from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this

word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

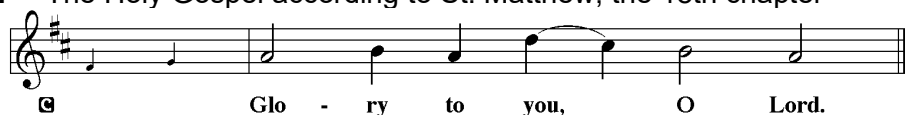
A Here ends the reading



GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 18:15–20

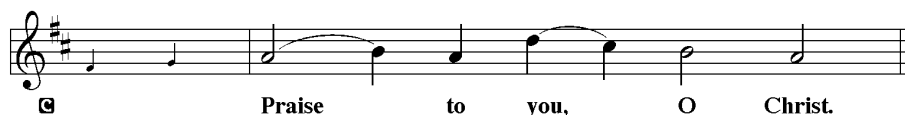
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter



¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

WOV 783

SERMON

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

***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**

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

O dear Lord, these lessons are hard! It's tough to think about sin and reconciliation, discipline and hard conversations. Please help us to thank you for the guidance and promise your Son gives us, even in such awkward encounters. fill us with your Spirit so we are equipped to put into practice what Jesus has given us for such times.

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

***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM

"Give Thanks"

arr. Pethel

Karina Blose, Clarinetist

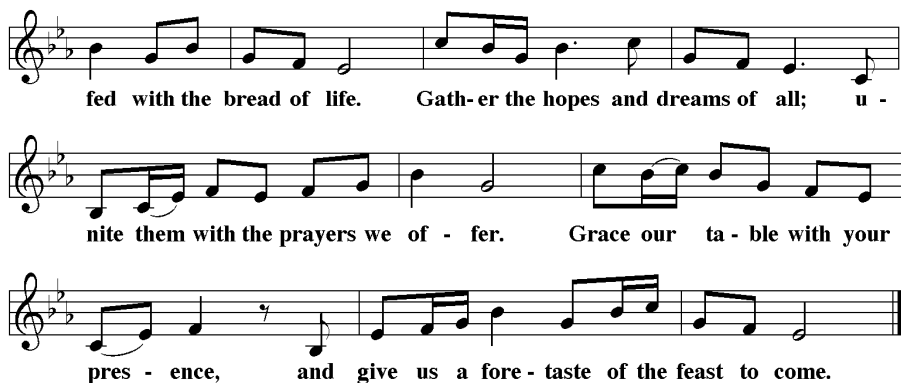
***OFFERTORY**



☐ Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles- ing. Gath- er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



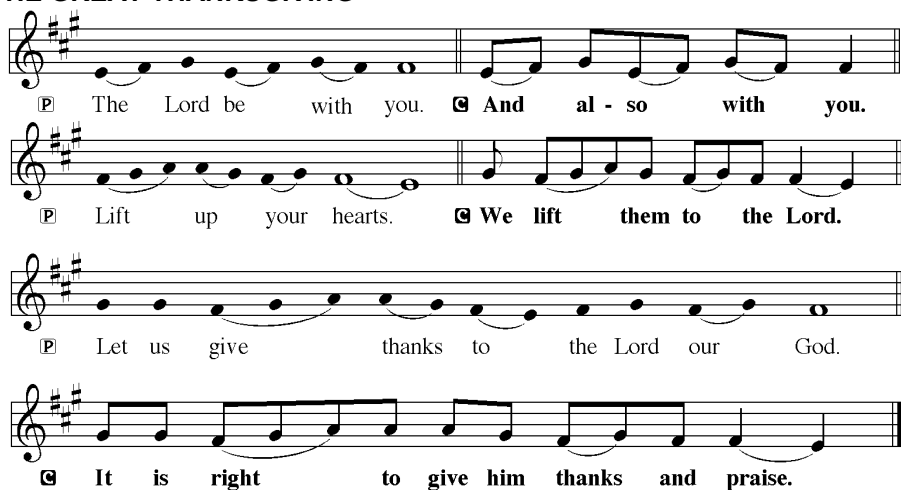
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are You,

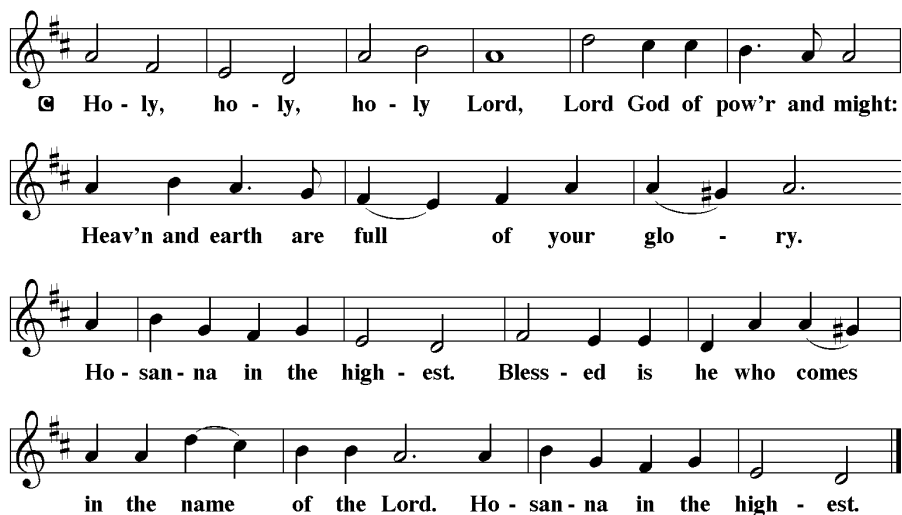
C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

EUCHARISTIC 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**

**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**



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

WOV 701, 711, 710, 709

*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....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.



*CLOSING HYMN

"God of Our Fathers"

LBW 567

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Kirken den er et gammelt hus"

Lindeman

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23015. English Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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

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>



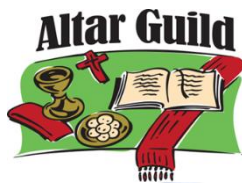
Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:

www.stjohnskittanning.org

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

Needed for Altar Care:

We are **still** looking for volunteers to help with every Sunday, can you serve?



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

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



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
Monday 9/7	Office Closed	Labor Day ★
Tuesday 9/8	12:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study @ Kings
Wednesday 9/9	6:15 p.m.	Senior Bells
	6:30 p.m.	P.J.'s Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 9/10	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Saturday 9/12	8:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 9/13	9:45 a.m.	Rally Day Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Kickoff Picnic Fleeger Meadow

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



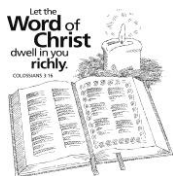
Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

**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."





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.

Catechism Classes to Begin

Catechism classes for students will begin on **September 10th** at 2:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Thursday.



Catechism

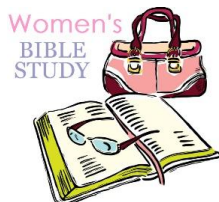


Wednesday Bible Study

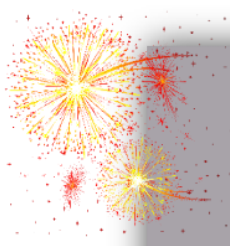
Book of Ephesians 6:30 pm

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!



Women's
BIBLE
STUDY



30 MIN. SERVE!

SEPT 29TH

YOU Pick the TIME!

**Sign up w QR below,
by Sun. the 26th**

What will we be doing:

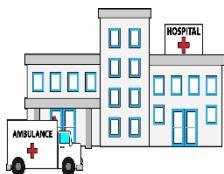
Preparing bags for

people in need, from our food pantry & organizing items

**Extras: You can bring items in
as well.**

**Who Can Come? Kids & Families
& Students**





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.



Youth Group
Kickoff Picnic @
Fleeger Meadow
Sept. 13th 5-8pm

Food, Fishing
Welcome Back,
& New Student & 6th Grader Gifts!
S'mores, Game, Prizes, God Stories,
Fun and Friends!

*** BAD WEATHER LOCATION WILL BE AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sign up for updates TEXT
YOUTH to 724.276.5321



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!



Happy Labor Day

A banner with the words "Happy Labor Day" in a white, cursive font with a red outline, set against a background of a waving American flag.



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!**

Deadline for this collection is September 13th
Thank you for your support!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers

John Swanson (E)

Lectors

Charlie Bleakney (L)

Becky Swanson (E)

Comm Assistants

Lance Whiteman (L)

Jill Wranich, Patty Kirkpatrick (E)

Lance & Christine Whiteman (L)

Acolytes

TBA (E)

Stella Venesky (L)

Camera Operators

Nick Wranich (E)

Keith Livengood (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 to God and in loving memory of my mother, Elnora, given by Rose Montgomery

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

