

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

December 11, 2022

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North America Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Third Sunday of Advent**. 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:

Create in us, Father, the spirit of humility so that we may stand receptive in the presence of Your coming; and shine through us so that all may see in us, the true love and greatness of You, our Lord and God. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Von Himmel Hoch"

Pachelbel

***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**

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

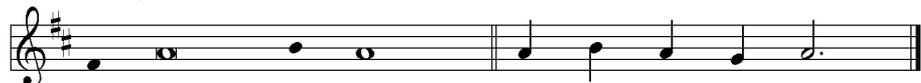
LBW 35

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, You once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son and to prepare His way. Grant us, Your people, the wisdom to see Your purpose today and the openness to hear Your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 35:1-10

A The First Lesson is from the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A Here ends the reading.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT READING

LBW 34, v. 1

PSALM:

PSALM 146:4-9

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**6who made heaven and earth,
the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise forever;**

7who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

**8The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

9the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**10The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON:

JAMES 5:7-10

A The Second Lesson is from the fifth chapter of James.

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

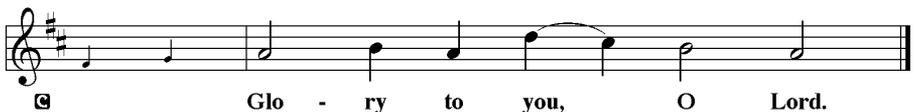


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eleventh chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

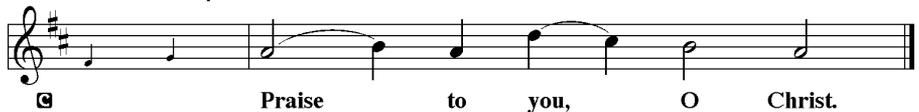
² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LBW 25

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

“Jesus is Emmanuel”

arr. Mauldin

*OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir -
it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*THE PRAYERS

As we await the coming of Christ in mercy and majesty, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Thank you, Lord, for your promise to visit your people with judgment and forgiveness. Thank you for Jesus, your final Word and the Yes to all your promises. Make us ready to receive him into our hearts, homes, and 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 Jesus Christ our LORD.

C Amen

*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.**

*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

"Joy to the World!"

LBW 39

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Noel Suisse"

Daquin

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!



Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting

TODAY, December 11th

following 11:00 a.m. worship.

for the purpose of electing new Congregational Council members, voting on designating the 2021 New Church Building Fund earnings for the building loan and to authorize Council to establish an outside columbarium (Memorial Garden) in the courtyard, against the wall of the Social Hall, and an inside columbarium in the back corner of the sanctuary. Each project will be done as funds allow.

A Traditional Christmas Pageant!

Next Sunday, December 18th @ 10:00 a.m.



Rehearsals are during Sunday School, 9:45-10:40 a.m. Additional practices may be needed. All classes are welcome to participate!



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. Flowers are \$50.00.

Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!

Amounts needed in offerings during November and December to meet our budget in the following accounts:

Current Account:	\$100,000.00
Benevolence:	\$21,000.00

Every November and 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! Please consider increasing your giving and/or making a significant one-time gift over and above your normal offerings. Thank you for your continued commitment to making the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ happen at St. John's.

Address correction for mailing to shut-ins: Glee Duncan, The Ridge at Heritage Meadows, 1126 Ross Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226

**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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Worship: Rock of our Salvation Sunday School/Pageant practice Senior Choir Worship Youth Group
Monday 12/12	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Tuesday 12/13	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible study (<i>Chapel</i>) Erecting of the Christmas tree
Wednesday 12/14	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Children's Hour New Bells Senior Bells Pastor's Bible study Senior Choir
Thursday 12/15	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 2:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Children's Hour Women's Bible Study (<i>Chapel</i>) Catechism Catechism
Saturday 12/17	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 12/18	9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Pageant practice Christmas Pageant (<i>refreshments to follow</i>) Senior Choir Worship: Communion



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans

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Katie's Cupboard

More than 38 million people—including 12 million children—in the U.S. experience food insecurity, leaving families to make hard choices between paying bills or buying groceries. Together, let's help everyone get enough to eat!

Suggested food pantry items:

- Canned tuna, ham or chicken
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta sauce and spaghetti
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Beef stew, chili, hearty soups
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Cereals
- Toiletries
- Cleaning & paper products

Donations to Katie's Cupboard can be left in the church parlor or in the outside cupboard at any time. Also, St. Johns accepts your donations of monetary gifts to buy items to stock the cupboard. We are also looking for volunteers to coordinate the stocking & maintaining of Katie's Cupboard. For more information, please contact Tammy Fleegeer @ 724-664-1773.

Thank you for your support!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers

Julie Smith(E)

Lectors

Gene Hughes(L)

Cassidy Smith(E)

Comm Assistants

Connie Choncek(L)

Acolytes

Lori Young, Amber Zurn(E)

Noelle Smoyer(E)

Welcome Teams

Quinn Kellner(L)

Venesky family(E)

Rupp family(L)

Camera Operators

Nick Wranich(E)

Robert John(L)

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

Julie Smith

Secretary

Christine Lettrich

Sexton

Michael Craft

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 loving memory of Delma Olinger's 93rd birthday and in honor of Morgan's birthday from Larry, Peggy and family.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is in honor of the birth of Ashton Steven Nemchek, son of Kellie & Robert Nemchek.

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



at

St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA