

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

November 27, 2022

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



First Sunday *of* **Advent**

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 **First 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:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Be present with us that we might worship You and glorify Your holy name. Help us to overcome that which may rob us of focusing on Your power. Amen.

PRELUDE*“Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland”**Bach****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“Savior of the Nations, Come”**LBW 28*

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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



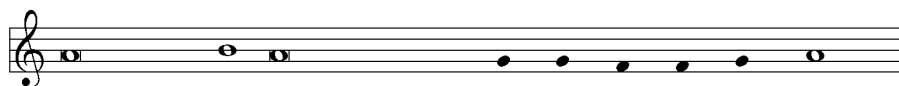
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C 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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

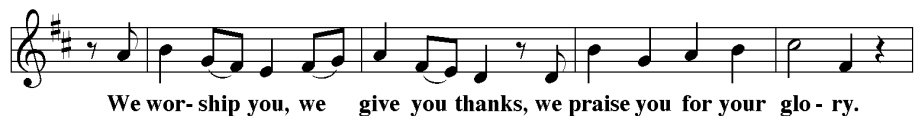


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

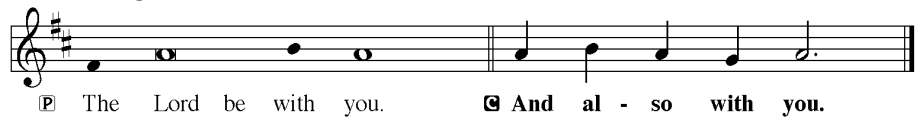
*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

BELL ANTHEM:

"Thankful"

arr. Eithun

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 2:1–5

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

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;

and all the nations shall flow to it,
³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

A Here ends the reading.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LBW 34, v. 1

ADVENT READING

PSALM:

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**⁸For my brethren and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 13:11–14

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

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.

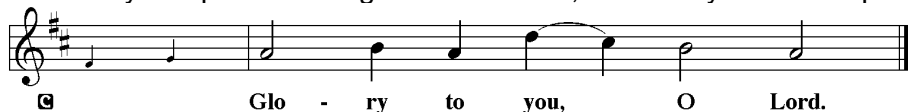
*VERSE



GOSPEL:

Matthew 24:36–44

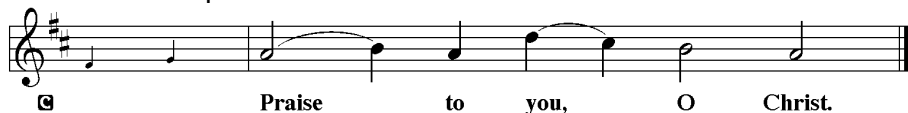
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if

the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"The Advent of Our God"

LBW 22

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

"Like a Child, I Wait"

Chopin

***OFFERTORY**

***THE PRAYERS**

As we await the coming of Christ, 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.



***CLOSING HYMN**

"Fling Wide the Door"

LBW 32

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Geneva 42"

Cornelius-Bates

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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!

A Traditional Christmas Pageant!

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



Our Opening Hymn

With "Savior of the Nations, Come", we plunge headfirst into the deep and profound waters of Christian hymnody. Fourth century Church Father, St. Augustine, attributes the words of this hymn - "*Veni Redemptor Gentium*" - to his contemporary, Bishop Ambrose of Milan. He is often referred to as the father of Latin hymnody. The music proper to this text also dates from an early period, and we refer to it as plainchant, or just chant.

Luther's Reformation, with its emphasis on simple, vernacular songs for the congregation, resulted in a scramble among poets and musicians to develop a body of liturgical hymnody appropriate to particular seasons and Sundays of the church year. With the help of his friend and musical advisor, Johann Walther, Luther made a quite literal translation of Ambrose's Latin text and simplified the chant melody, giving us "*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*", which we translate as "Savior of the Nations, Come".

This Advent text, like so many, is strangely ambiguous. Is it focused on Christ's birth or on his second coming? The combination of its spooky, ethereal text and sober, austere melody leaves us wondering.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School/Pageant practice
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday 11/28	6:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Worship & Music meeting
Tuesday 11/29	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible study (<i>Chapel</i>)
Wednesday 11/30	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	6:00 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Pastor's Bible study
	8:00 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 12/1	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	11:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (<i>Chapel</i>)
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
Sunday 12/4	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School/Pageant practice
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group



*St. John's Lutheran Church
Presents the
Annual Christmas Concert*

Featuring:

The Vocal Choirs

The Bell Choirs

Under the direction of Rebecca Veith

Accompanist Elizabeth Cramer

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

218 North Jefferson Street, Kittanning

Admission is free.

No offering will be taken.

Light refreshments to follow the concert.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in our Church for the Christmas Eve service, please complete and return this form with your check made payable to: **“St. John’s Lutheran Church”** marked **“Christmas Flowers”** in the memo line. **Poinsettias are \$9.00 each and orders *must be received by Sunday, December 4, 2022.***

Number of **RED**: _____

Number of **WHITE**: _____

I wish for the acknowledgment in the bulletin to read as follows:

PLEASE PRINT, USING FIRST AND LAST NAMES

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Please check one: Check _____ Cash _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please check one:

_____ I will take my poinsettia(s) with me after the Christmas Eve service.

_____ Please take my poinsettia to a shut-in.



ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.”

Please place a check mark in the box next to each item you wish to purchase. (*Families & tags are located in the narthex.*)



Purchase and wrap the gifts. Request a gift receipt when purchasing the gift, and enclose it with the gift.



Fill out and place a gift tag on each gift with the child's number.

IMPORTANT! Indicate the contents of each package using a “Post-it” note on the outside of the package.

(This information to be used by committee only.)



Please bring gifts to the church by Sunday, December 4th.



**Any questions: Please contact Michelle Kozlowski
@ 724-816-1680.**

Thank you for your support with this ministry!

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

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



Presents for Parents



Saturday, December 10, 2022
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
St. John's Social Hall

The Evangelism Committee will be hosting "Presents for Parents". Children can come to St. John's to hear the Christmas story, make a craft, play some games and watch a movie. Lunch will be provided. Parents can use the gift of some free time without their children to catch up on some holiday activities of their own like shopping, baking or decorating.

We ask that parents register their children in advance (potty trained through Grade 6) and they complete a brief permission slip before leaving their child. Sign up below to pre-register your child and place it in the offering plate.

Registration will also be taken by calling the church office. Please contact Tammy Fleeger 724 664-1773 with any questions. This event is open to anyone in the community who could benefit from it, so please share with those who may be interested.

Registration may be limited, so sign up early!

.....

Yes, I would like to register my child.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

Yes, please contact me about donating a lunch item.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____



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 Fleeger @ 724-664-1773.

Thank you for your support!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lector
Acolyte
Welcome Team
Camera Operator

Lance Whiteman
Christine Whiteman
Callie Adkins
Jack & Deb Griffin
Nick Wranich

STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith
Christine Lettrich
Michael Craft
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer

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