

# St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: (724) 548-5512

Church Web Site: <http://stjohnskittanning.org>

Church e-mail: [stjohnskittanning@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskittanning@gmail.com)

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**December 24, 2025**

**7:00 p.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 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:*

*Grant, O Lord, that the glory, the beauty, and the peace of this Holy Night, may fill our hearts and our lives, so that He, who has been born anew in our hearts this Christmas, may live fully among us throughout all of the coming year. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE***"Once in Royal David's City"**R. B. Farlee***\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN***Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**LBW 45***\*THE DIALOG**

**P:** Glory to God in the Highest.

**C:** And peace to His people on earth.

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**P:** and all that is within me bless His holy name.

**C:** Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**P:** and forget not His benefits.

**C:** for unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray....

Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

**HANDBELL QUARTET***"Angels we Have Heard on High"*  
*Debbie, Molly, Emily & William Bouch**Arr. Krug***FIRST LESSON***Isaiah 9:2-7*

**A:** The First Lesson is from the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and

he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**A:** Here ends the reading.

## **PSALM**

*Psalms 96*

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD and bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **SECOND LESSON:**

**TITUS 2:11-14**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the second chapter of Titus.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the

present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory  
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself  
for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a  
people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**A** Here ends the reading.

**GOSPEL READING & CHILDREN'S SERMON: LUKE 2:1-20**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the  
world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was  
taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own  
towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in  
Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he  
was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be  
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was  
expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to  
deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped  
him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no  
place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping  
watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before  
them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were  
terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am  
bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born  
this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of  
cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a  
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the  
shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see  
this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child  
lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had  
been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at  
what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words  
and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying  
and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told  
them.

**P** The Gospel of the LORD.

## SERMON

"I Didn't Ask for This"

## \*THE PRAYERS

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

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, we come to Your cradle with joy and wonder! We adore you for Your loving-kindness. We thank you for making Yourself small and meek, so we can approach you without fear. Thank you, dear Savior. Accept our hearts as our loving gift. LORD, in Your mercy,

**C:** 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

## \*PEACE

**P** The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## ANTHEM

"Glorious Birth"

Smith

Marlee Smith, Soloist

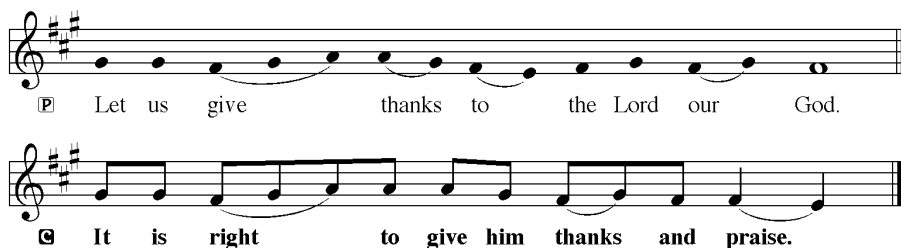
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A:** Let us pray.... 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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



## **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** We give You thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us Your will. He is Your Word, inseparable from You. Through Him You created all things, and in Him You take delight. He is Your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is He, our LORD Jesus, who fulfilled all Your will and won for You a holy people; He stretched out His hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust You.

It is He who, handed over to a death He freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish His covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to You, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, His death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before You, giving You thanks that You have made us worthy to stand before You and to serve You as Your priestly people.

And we ask You: Send Your Spirit upon these gifts of Your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with Your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify You through Your Son Jesus Christ.

Through Him all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church both now and forever.

**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



☪ 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

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us. Children are invited forward to be blessed.*

### Gluten-Free Communion Wafers

*For those that require special dietary restrictions, we have gluten-free communion wafers.  
(Please inform the Pastor of your needs.)*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*Please sing two verses of each hymn:*

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<i>LBW 67</i>
<i>The First Noel</i>	<i>LBW 56</i>
<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	<i>LBW 55</i>
<i>Angels we Have Heard on High</i>	<i>LBW 71</i>
<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	<i>LBW 54</i>
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	<i>LBW 44</i>

## \*BLESSING

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen**

## \*CANTICLE HYMN

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

LBW 60

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A:** Let us pray Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our LORD.

**C: Amen**

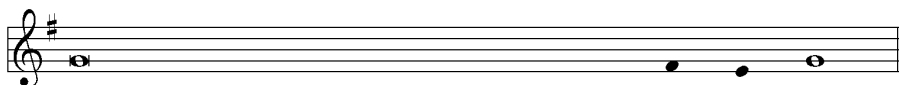
## \*CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

*Silent Night*

LBW 65

*Light from the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath will be taken by the Pastor and passed to light other candles (hold lit candle straight up; tilt only the unlit candle). Please do not drop wax.*

## \*BENEDICTION



☞ 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.



☞ A - men

## \*RECESSIONAL HYMN

*“Joy to the World”*

LBW 39

## POSTLUDE

*“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

*W. Held*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23015. Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI Streaming License #11425662.



## 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.”**



**We welcome you** and are pleased you are participating in our Service of Word and Sacrament this evening as we celebrate the Birth of Christ. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us. Children are invited forward to be blessed. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. **If you are a visitor**, please complete a "Visitor's Card" from a pew rack and place it in the offering.

This evening we light the **Christ Candle** on our Advent Wreath. This candle symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior and Light of the world.

**You're Invited!**  
**The Celebration Continues.**  
**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 a.m. Worship**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

**Christmas Carol Hymn Sing**

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

*Amounts needed in offerings during December to meet our estimated expenses in the following accounts:*

Current Account: \$98,000.00

Benevolence: \$24,000.00

**Every 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! Thank you for your continued commitment to making the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ happen at St. John's.

**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.



## **Christmas poinsettias are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of:**

**By:**

Our Loved Ones	Susan & Bob Barto
Our Children	Charlesetta and Bob Bleakney
Our Grandchildren	Charlesetta and Bob Bleakney
My Family	Carole Cable
Grandparents Jack and Debbie Griffin	Nesta, Larissa, Colvin & Callie
Chris & Connie Choncek, Brandon, Tyler & Anna	Butch Choncek
Jeff, Austin, & Ashleigh Choncek	Butch Choncek
Blair & Mary Jane Dawson	Angela B. Clever
Pastor Carl & Nancy Johnson	Rose Debnar
Children, Jeff, Jason & Wendy Debnar	Rose Debnar
Grandchildren, Rochelle, Zachary, Tyler & Jaslyn Debnar	Rose Debnar
Stephen, Celeste, Adelaide, Cecilia, Juliette	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Stephen, Rebecca, Liam & Mara Lash	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Richard Fite	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Madison Flischel	Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel
Our Acolytes	Gene Hughes
Kendall, Allison, Mitchell, Brendon & Katy,	Steve & Diana Ignatz
Christopher & Allison	Steve & Diana Ignatz
Mary Anne Dalmagro	Rebecca Johnson
My Family—especially Erik	Rebecca Johnson
For all those fighting cancer	Rebecca Johnson
Pops & Nana	Emma & Landon Kirkpatrick
Emma & Landon Kirkpatrick	Denny & Patty Kirkpatrick
Carol Runninger	Donna Livengood
Our Family	Janet & Larry Means
Our Children & Grandchildren	Roger & Cheryl Mechling
Mother & Granddaughter	James Merryman
Pastor & Nancy Johnson	Rose Montgomery
Rebecca Veith	Rose Montgomery
Liz Cramer	Rose Montgomery
Our Children & Grandchildren	Rev. Jim & Sue Neal
Bryce Olinger	Bill & Crystal Olinger
My Father, Joseph Campbell	Juanita Sams
Our Parents	The Shafer Family
Mr. & Mrs. Holt's 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	Christine & Lance Whiteman
Mr. & Mrs. McGalla's 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	Christine & Lance Whiteman
Mr. & Mrs. Whiteman's 32 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary	Christine & Lance Whiteman



## **Christmas poinsettias are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:**

**By:**

Dale & Jeane Smart

Our Loved Ones

Jerry Cable

Esther Choncek

Grandmother, Bernice L. Stitt

Mary Crooks, Dean Crooks Sr. & Kim Crooks

Bertram Gaines, Dr. Patrick O. Wolfe

My husband, Emil Debnar

Gary Charles Duncan

Murray & Arline Calhoun

Charles & Norma Jean Duncan

Henry & Cheryl Livengood

Cheryl Fite

Loved ones

Chuck Enright; Lila Iddings; Dennis Hughes

Loved Ones

Mary "Libby" Reesman

Ray H. Law

Linda Lindeman

Loved Ones

Betty Merryman & Reily Pyle

Our Parents

Harry & Regina Neidig

Jean Neidig

Our Parents, Jim & Lorretta Kissinger

Our Parents, John & Delma Olinger

Don Runninger

Christine Schall

My Mother, Patricia Campbell

Loved Ones

Robert & Doris Smail

Stephen & Alice Ignatz

Derian Keefer

John Dalmagro, Phyllis & Eric Johnson, Gerald Mentch

Tony & Delores Ferraro

Lois & Eugene Sheasley

Jim, Carol & Eric Jack

Bobbie, Rob & Keith Williamson

William Bouch Sr., Dorothy Bouch, Sue Wright

Ruth Ann & Daniel D. Crawford

Susan & Bob Barto

Carole Cable

Butch Choncek

Angela B. Clever

Dean M. Crooks II

Dean M. Crooks II

Rose Debnar

Sandra Duncan

Sandra Duncan

Sandra Duncan

Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel

Keith Livengood & Rachel Flischel

Gloria Sgro & Sandra Hellam

Gene Hughes

Kyle & Erica Kirkpatrick

Her Great Granddaughter, Baylee Kozlosky

Cindy and Family

David Lindeman

Roger & Cheryl Mechling

James Merryman

Rev. Jim & Sue Neal

Jane Neidig

Jane Neidig

Bill & Crystal Olinger

Bill & Crystal Olinger

Carol Runninger

Carol Runninger

Juanita Sams

The Shafer Family

Steve & Diana Ignatz

Steve & Diana Ignatz

Donna Livengood

Rebecca Johnson

Scott Stirling

Christine & Lance Whiteman

Kevin & Marcia Williamson

Kevin & Marcia Williamson

Bob, Chaunie, Dawson & Family

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Communion  
Acolytes  
Welcome team  
Camera Operator

Debbie Bouch  
Emily Bouch  
William & Mollie Bouch  
Mitchell Wranich & William Bouch  
The Griffins & Adkins Families  
Robert John

## STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith  
Angela B. Clever  
TBD  
Rebecca Veith  
Elizabeth Cramer

**Our sincere appreciation** is expressed to the members of our choirs, to our choir directors, to our organist, pianist, and to our instrumental accompanists for the beautiful special music in our service this evening. We also thank Kay Thorell for gracing us with her presence at the organ this evening. Her talents are greatly appreciated.

**St. John's Kittanning streaming live on YouTube at St. John's Kittanning.** <https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

## 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*



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Kittanning, PA**