

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Parsonage: 724-548-5512

Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

November 23, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



Christ the King
Sunday

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 **Christ the King Sunday**. 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:

Send your Holy Spirit, O Lord, into our hearts so that we may know that we are called to serve You and our fellow men and women and that we may live according to Your holy will. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Prelude on Hanover"

Emery

***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**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

LBW 170

***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



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



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



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



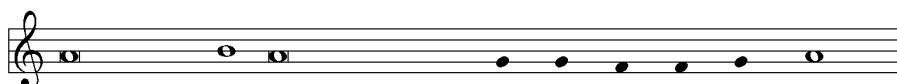
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

*HYMN OF PRAISE

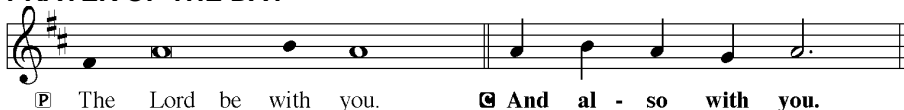


Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



☐ 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 everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to Your beloved Son, whom You anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST LESSON:

Jeremiah 23:1–6

A The First Lesson is from the twenty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

A Here ends the reading.



St. John's Lutheran Church

Presents the

Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring:

The Vocal Choirs

The Bell Choirs

Under the direction of Rebecca Veith

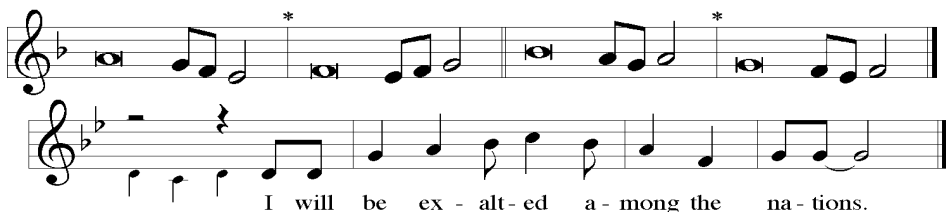
Accompanist Elizabeth Cramer

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free.

No offering will be taken.

Refreshments to follow the concert.



God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*
and though the mountains be toppled into
the depths | of the sea;

³**though its waters | rage and foam,*
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.**

⁴**The LORD of | hosts is with us;***
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;*
God shall help her at the | break of day.

⁷**The nations make much ado,
and the king- | doms are shaken;***
God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.

⁸**The LORD of | hosts is with us;***
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*
what awesome things he has | done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;*
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the | shields with fire.

¹¹**"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;***
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted | in the earth."

¹²**The LORD of | hosts is with us;***
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

SECOND LESSON:

Colossians 1:11–20

A The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Colossians.

¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**



GOSPEL:

Luke 23:33–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the twenty-third chapter.

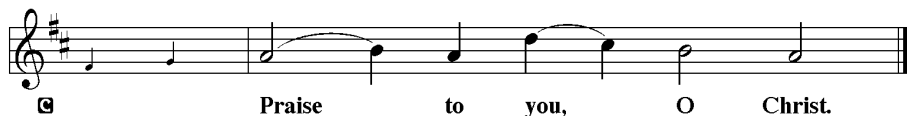


³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Lift High the Cross"

LBW 377

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**

***THE PRAYERS**

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our King, whose throne was first the Cross, and whose crown was first the thorns. Thank you for his glorious and gentle rule. Thank you for filling us with your Holy Spirit, so we have the faith to acclaim him as King and love him as Savior and Brother.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Other intercessions are offered)

L 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.

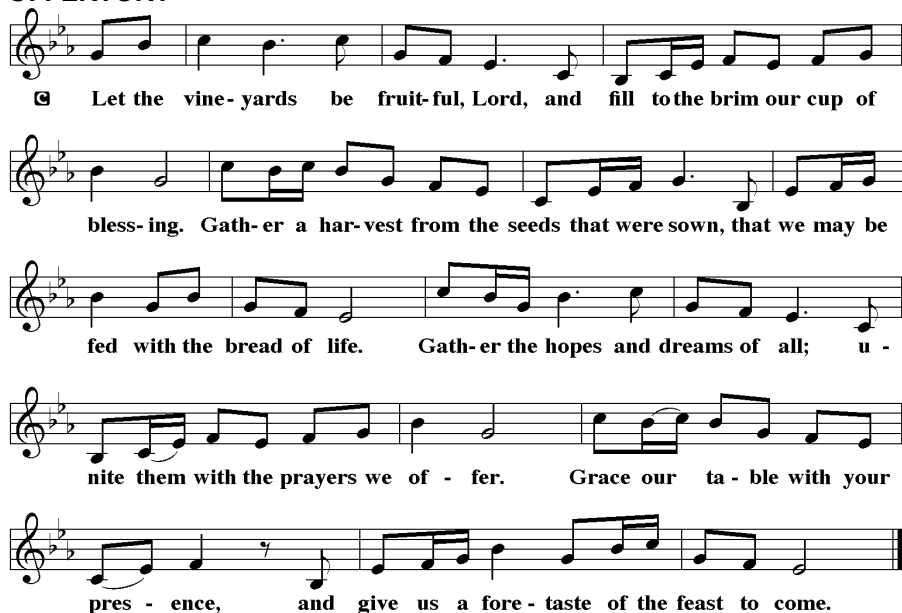
C And also with you.

ANTHEM

"The King of Who I Am"

Starns

*OFFERTORY



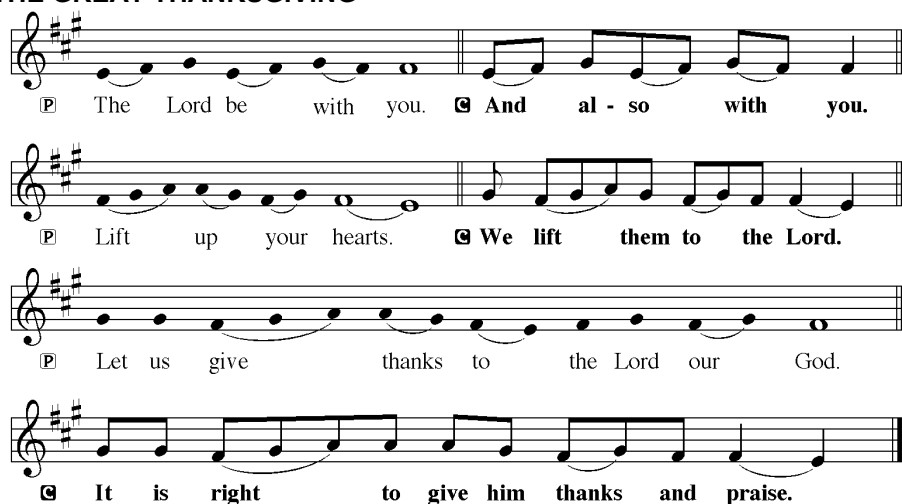
C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

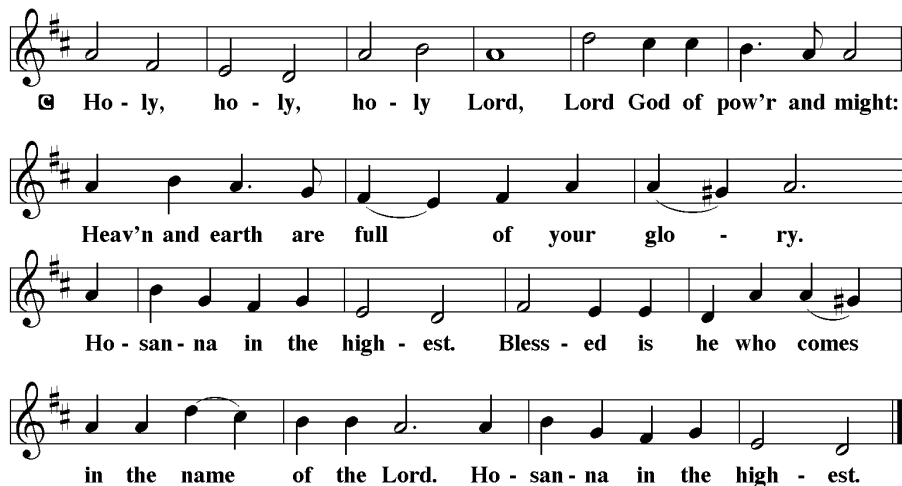
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:



EUCCHARISTIC 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**

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 HYMNS

LBW 205, 265, 328, WOV 740

*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



☩ 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.



© A - men

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

LBW 171

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Allegro-Sortie"

Dubois

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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.



Tonight

The **Kittanning Ministerial Association** is sponsoring a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** on Sunday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Assembly of God, Kittanning.

All are welcome!

*For 200 years St. John's has been a bright beacon
of Christ's light and life for the world.
200 years and the work continues:
That all might know Christ's Love.*



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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."

Looking for Christmas Concert Cookies!

December 7th, please reach out to Connie McMaster, Debbie Griffin or the church office if you can donate. We are also looking for gluten free and sugar free cookies as well~

**please deliver the cookies to the kitchen by December 7th for before the 11am service.



Social Ministry Christmas Project



This year we have the opportunity to adopt families for Christmas. There are sign-up boards in the narthex that list wants, needs and sizes. If you are unable to shop but would like to help, please make a donation in an envelope marked Christmas Families and place it in the offering. If you choose

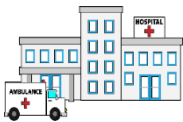
to purchase the item(s), please place a check mark in the box next to each item you wish to purchase. Please use gift cards for food assistance. Remember to get a gift receipt when purchasing the gift and enclose it with the gift. Gifts should be unwrapped and a gift tag on each gift with the child's number.

IMPORTANT! The gifts should be brought to the church by **Monday, December 1st** and each package marked with a Post it note attached on the outside describing the item inside and the name of the child (*this information is for the committee only*).

Any questions, please contact Michelle Kozlowski at 724-816-1680. Thank you for your support!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 11/23	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Rock of Our Salvation
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Group Pittsburgh Trip
	7:00 p.m.	Community Thanksgiving Worship: Cornerstone AG
Tuesday 11/25	6:15 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 11/27		Happy Thanksgiving
Sunday 11/30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion



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.

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 27, 12:00 Noon

St. John's Lutheran Church

Limited Availability, Reservations Required.

Call 724-548-2051, or scan the QR code below, to reserve your spot today.

The above Community Outreach Ministry can use your assistance. How can you help?

Pray for the ministry and those it serves.

Share this opportunity with anyone who might benefit.

**Get involved by volunteering,
donating food,**

or making a financial contribution.

**For more information or to offer support,
please contact Rick or Juanita John.**





Katie's Cupboard

Again, this year we have created a Reverse Advent Calendar and included Epiphany as well. Reverse calendars are in the Narthex.



If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in our Church for the Christmas Eve Service, please complete this form and return with your check made payable to: **"St. John's Lutheran Church"** marked **"Christmas Flowers"** in the memo line.

The Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

Orders must be received by December 7, 2025

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: _____

OFFERING ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____

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.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	John Swanson (E) Gene Hughes (L)
Lector	Mitchell Wranich (E) Rose Montgomery (L)
Communion	John & Becky Swanson (E) Charlie Bleakney, Mollie Bouch (L) Elijah & Sophia Holt (L)
Acolyte	Mitchell Wranich (E) Callie Adkins (L)
Welcome team	The Young Family (E) The Bouch Family (L)
Camera Operator	Robert John (E) Bill Bouch (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 of God and in loving memory of Ray H. Law given by his wife Cindy 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.

