

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

September 7, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



*like a
Tree PLANTED by
Streams of Water*



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

Loving Father, whatever stage of life we are in – infant, child, adult, elder – we know we can turn to You for comfort. Thank you for our life, may we use it to serve and honor You. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Blessed Assurance"

Carlson

***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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

LBW 242

***GREETING**

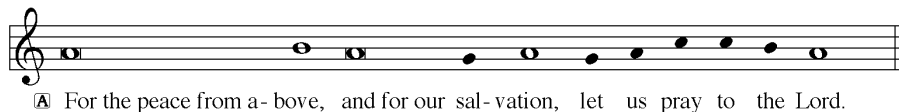
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



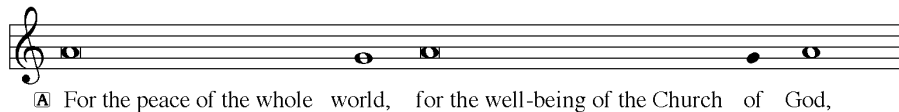
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



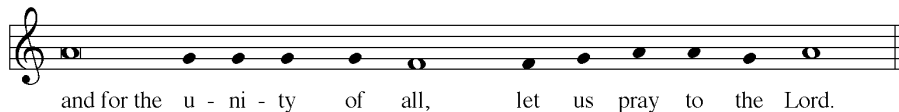
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



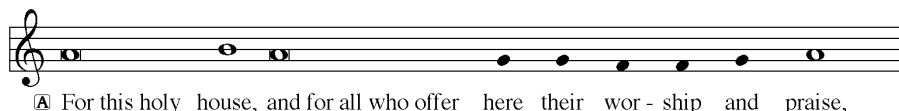
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to Your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach Your Word: Grant that Your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST LESSON:

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

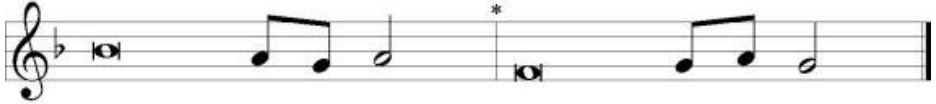
A The First Lesson is from the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 1



¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,**

and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night. R

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;**

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,**

but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R

SECOND LESSON:

Philemon 1:1–21

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

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister and
Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the
Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your
faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing
that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and
comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints
have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do
what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul,
an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to
you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my
imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed
useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my
very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that
he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the
gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order
that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.
¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you
might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more
than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how
much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive
me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that
to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to
say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I
want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do
even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me,
for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to
you.

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:

Luke 14:25–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fourteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,
²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" **LBW 408**

SERMON

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

***THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Gracious Father, teach us what true discipleship is. By your Spirit, give us the faith and steadfastness to bear its cost. Thank you for so clearly setting before us the “way of blessing and curse, of life and death.”

Thank you for the grace to choose the life you offer through the death and resurrection of your Son. 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

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

Fettke

***OFFERTORY**



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



bles-sing. 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 Let us pray.

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**



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.



♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.



♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***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**

**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**

***ANGUS DEI**



☉ 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.
(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

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LBW 221

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S

Sunday 9/7	9:45 a.m.	Rally Day Breakfast
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
Monday 9/8	6:00 p.m.	Council
Wednesday 9/10	9:30 a.m.	Children’s Hour
	6:00 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	PJ’s Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 9/11	9:30 a.m.	Children’s Hour
	12:00 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study - Kings
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism meeting – Parents
Saturday 9/13	8:00 a.m.	Men’s Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 9/14	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation: Communion
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	6:00 p.m.	Campfire & Youth Group



YOUTH GROUP FALL KICK OFF
SEPT 7TH 1:00-3:30PM
GRADES 6TH-12TH
CAMPFIRE & PICNIC AT THE
FLEEGER MEADOW

253 PUMPSTATION RD WORTHINGTON

Welcome prizes for 6th Graders, icebreakers, Bible By the Fire, Fishing, Cornhole, Wiffle Ball, More games, fun, & food!



Wednesday Bible Study

Beginning September 10th 7:00 pm

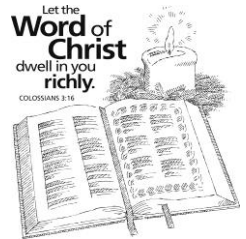
STUDY GROUP

The Nicene Creed celebrates its 1700th birthday this year. In celebration of this milestone, Pastor Johnson will be leading a Bible Study on the Nicene Creed. Every statement in the creed can be found in the Bible. We will go through the creed line by line and looking up each Bible verse that supports the statements. Come explore why this statement of faith was so important and continues to be so important for the faith.

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.

Beginning **September 14th**, 2025



Catechism

Catechism Classes to Begin

Catechism classes for 7th and 8th Graders will begin with a Parents only session on **September 11th**. **September 18th** will begin the student sessions at 2:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Thursday.



Mojo texting was created FOR churches! It is safe and doesn't sell your number to anyone else!

If you would like to receive schedule changes, updates, reminders and announcements from St. John's, please text the following words to **724-276-5321**. It will send you a welcome message.

Text **SPARK** to receive schedule changes regarding SPARK.

Text **GRACE** to receive general church information.

Text **ACOLYTE** to receive the sign-up calendar.

Text **YOUTH** for Youth Group reminders.

Text **CAMPFIRE** for announcements regarding Campfire!



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 will be receiving New Members on Sunday September 28th.

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

Just a note to say THANK YOU to the folks of St Johns for serving our Risen, Living Lord Jesus by sustaining our neighbors thru Katie's Cupboard. Please know your contributions, efforts to stock, clean, sort and maintain are noticed in the community and are a blessing to many beyond measure. With Fall and Winter approaching, see the October newsletter for a list of suggestions.



Women's Bible Study

... will return at the King's restaurant on **Thursday, September 11th at noon.** Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!





**Children's hour . . .
will be back 2 days a week!
WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY**

9:30-11:00am

ages 2 ½ -5yrs

Sign up Anytime

Cost: \$1 wk Donation

Join us....for our Fun-and-Faith-Filled, exceptional program that is available for all **potty-trained**

children ages 2 ½ to 5 yrs old. Moms, Grandparents, Caregivers, Babies all are welcome! Every week we present a structured Children's program that blends preschool concepts with fun Biblical lessons. Children develop their creativity and imagination with crafts, games, Bible stories, lessons, snacks, and hands-on activities to learn Biblical values and have preschool fun! The cost is just a donation of \$1.00 per class/NOT required to pay to attend!

FALL 2025 begins Wednesday Sept. 10th & Thursday Sept. 11th @ St. John's Lutheran Church 218 N. Jefferson, right next to the Library!

Please join us or tell someone that may be interested!!...

Call 724-548-2051 or email: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

Children & Youth

Sept. 10th & 11th: Children's Hour Begins!

Sept. 14th: First day of Sunday School Classes! 10am

Sept 14th: Campfire 6:00-6:45pm... Then Youth Group. Grades 6-12, until 8:00pm

Sept. 16th: SPARK Kids Kick Off Night. 6:15-7:30

Sept. 21st: Acolyte Training @9:30am, new and refresher

Sept. 21st: Youth Group Ignition Event. Dinner @ 3:45, leave @4pm,

Sept. 24th: See You At The Pole! 7am at your high school!

Sept. 28th: Campfire- All Ages - @ 6:00pm... Youth Group following

Later in the Fall . . .

October: Bring a Friend Sunday, Spark & Trunk R Treat, Student Habitat Volunteer Day, Reformation Sunday Activities

November: Spark Kids Super Hero... Retreat Day! 9-3, Nov. 11th Youth Group Lock In! Light Up Night Out reach, Youth Field Trip

December: Spark Christmas Party! Local Volunteering opportunity for Jr/Sr HS Students. . . . & St. John's All Ages Christmas Pageant.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Comm Assistants

Acolytes

Camera Operator

Kay Thorell
Sophia Holt
Elijah & Sophia Holt
Tabitha Bowser & Charlie Bleakney
William Bouch, Avía B. Clever
Camryn & Lucas Bowser
Bill Bouch

STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
TBD
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elnora Montgomery by her daughter, 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.

GRACE
happens



St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA