

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: 724-548-5512

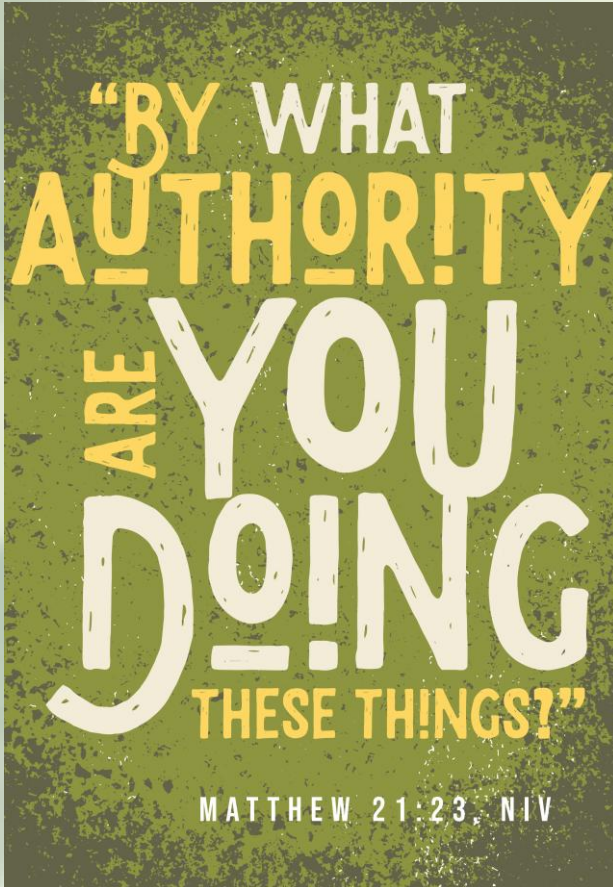
Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

September 27, 2026

11:00 a.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 this morning as we celebrate the **Eighteenth Sunday of 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:

O Lord, You are fair and just and we desire to know You deeply. You are deserving of all our honor and praise. We bow before You, submitting ourselves to Your will. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Contemplation"

Rowley

***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**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

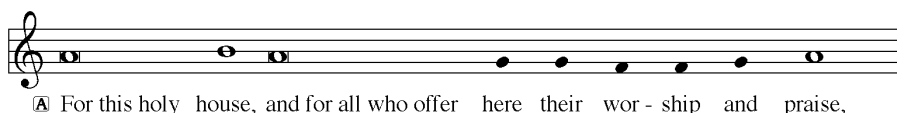
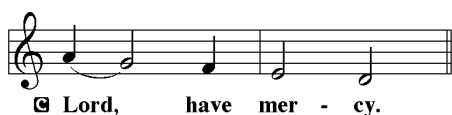
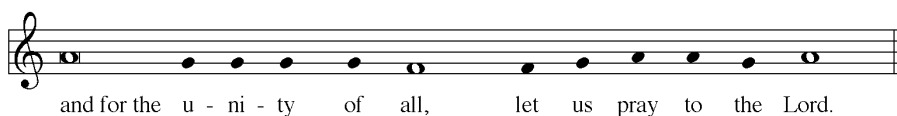
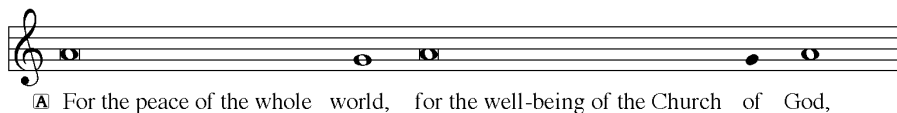
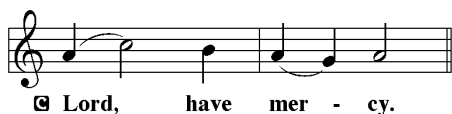
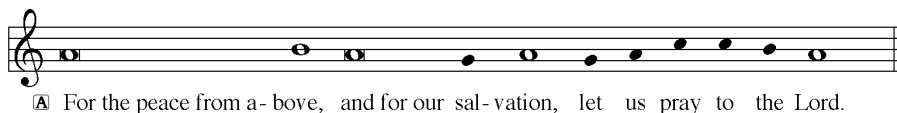
LBW 328

***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



*HYMN OF PRAISE





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.

God of love, You know our frailties and failings. Give us Your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

A The First Lesson is from the 18th chapter of Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 25:1–8

¹To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in You;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**²Let none who look to You be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

³Show me Your ways, O LORD,
and teach me Your paths

**⁴Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
in You have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember O LORD, Your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**⁶Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
Remember me according to Your love
and for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore He teaches sinners in His way.

**⁸He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches His way to the lowly.**

PROGRESSIVE WORKSHOP TEMPLE TALK

SECOND LESSON:

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

A The Second Lesson is from the 2nd chapter of Philippians.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A Here ends the reading

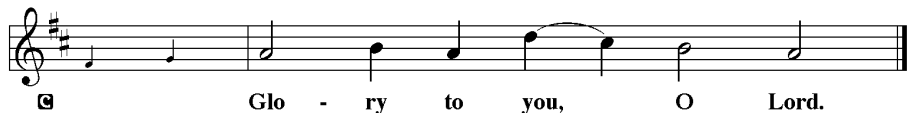
GOD'S OVERFLOWING ABUNDANCE TEMPLE TALK



GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.



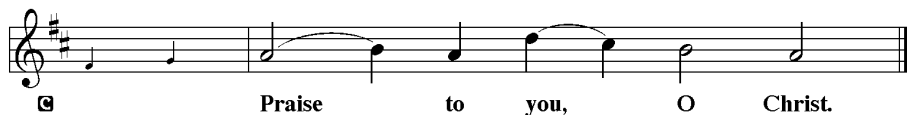
²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven

or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

LBW 389

SERMON

"Scarcity or Abundance?"

God's gives abundantly.

The devil wants us to think in terms of scarcity

Gratitude is the Foundation of Generosity.

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

*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

"Give Me Jesus"
Susan Barto, Soloist

Harlan

*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

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and for one another.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us your children. Thank you for your patience with us when we speak and act in ways that grieve and displease you. Thank you for your Son Jesus, who perfectly says and does your will. Make us to be like him, so we are your heart's delight and your blessing to the 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 Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*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

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

LBW 492

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"La Serpentina"

Pellegrini

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Everyone is invited for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering space.



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."**



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	Progressive workshop luncheon following church	
	12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Service Project
Monday 9/28	6:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Worship / Music
Tuesday 9/29	Your time	30 Min. Serve
Wednesday 9/30	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	6:15 p.m.	Senior bells
	6:30 p.m.	PJ's Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 10/1	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Sunday 10/4	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 11	Generosity Sunday / Harvest Home
Oct 25	Reformation Sunday
Nov 8	Turkey / Ham Dinner
Dec 6	Christmas Concert



Internet Streaming St. John's Live

The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on You Tube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. as well as 8:30 a.m. service Sundays. <http://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:

www.stjohnskittanning.org

Here you will find: Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events, program information, and more.



GENEROSITY SUNDAY, OCT. 11, 2026



*You are cordially invited to a
Catered Luncheon
following the 11AM Worship.
Enjoy a meal provided by
St. John's in celebration of the
"In the Beginning—Generosity"
Sunday.*

I/We will be present for worship and the Celebration Luncheon on
Sunday, October 11th.

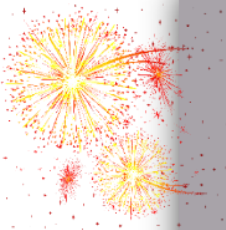
☐ Yes ☐ No

The number of people attending from my household will be

NAME: _____

Phone _____

RESERVATIONS DUE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH



30 MIN. SERVE!

SEPT 29TH

YOU Pick the TIME!

**Sign up w QR below,
by Sun. the 26th**

What will we be doing:

**Preparing bags for
people in need, from our food pantry & organizing items**

**Extras: You can bring items in
as well.**

**Who Can Come? Kids & Families
& Students**



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Acolytes
Camera Operators

Karen Waugaman
Karina Blose
Colvin Adkins
Keith Livengood

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 as a thanks for God's blessings of friends and family and for Suz on her birthday by Karen Waugaman

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.

*St. John's is a group of sinners
who have been claimed by God
to gather in this place, to worship Him,
to learn about Him, to bask in His love,
to share His love with other people
and to spread that love with the entire world!*

GRACE
happens



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

