

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 24, 2022

11:00 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 the Service of Word and Sacrament 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.

11:00 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

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

"Christmas Medley"

Caudill

***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: Let us confess our sin to God, our Father.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: We confess

C: that we have not feared, loved or trusted You as we should, and that often we have failed even to be aware of Your presence. We have treated other people without love and have been guilty of injustice. We are ashamed of our self-centeredness and ask Your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness and remission of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***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

SR. BELL ENSEMBLE *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* *arr. Krug*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6-12

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

⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
they shall never be silent.

You who put the LORD in remembrance,
take no rest,

⁷ and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

"I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink your wine
for which you have labored;

⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary."

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."

¹² And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

A: Here ends the reading.

PSALM

Psalm 97



Light has sprung up for the right - teous.



¹The LORD is king; let the | earth rejoice;*
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

**²Clouds and darkness are | round about him,*
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of his throne.**

³A fire | goes before him*
and burns up his enemies on | every side.

**⁴His lightnings light | up the world;*
the earth sees it and | is afraid.**

⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence | of the LORD,*
at the presence of the LORD of | the whole earth.

**⁶The heavens de- | clare his righteousness,*
and all the peoples | see his glory. R**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!*
Bow down before him, | all you gods.

**⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,*
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;*
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

**¹⁰The LORD loves those | who hate evil;*
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand | of the wicked. R**

¹¹Light has sprung up | for the righteous,*
and joyful gladness for those who | are truehearted.

**¹²Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,*
and give thanks to his | holy name. R**

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

A: The Second Lesson is from the third chapter of Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

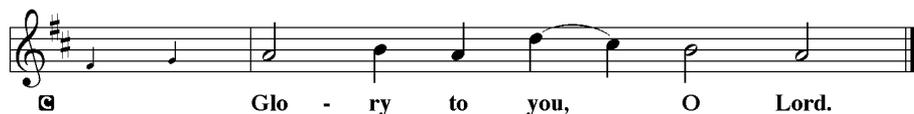
A: Here ends the reading.



***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-20

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

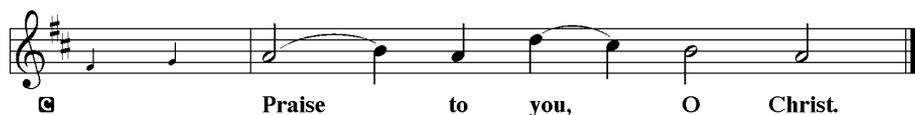


In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

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

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

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



***HYMN**

"What Child Is This"

LBW 40

SERMON

*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 Christ, we come to your cradle with joy and wonder, adoring you for your loving-kindness. Thank you for making yourself small and meek that we might approach you gladly and without fear. Thank you, dear Jesus; accept our hearts as our best and loving gift. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Peace be with you.

R: Peace be with you.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

"How Quietly"

Rainey

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY** *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

LBW 54

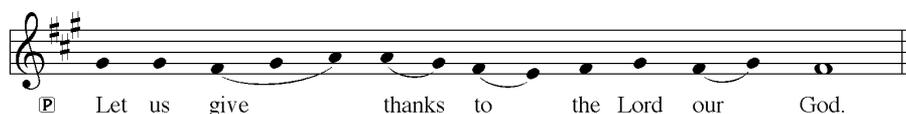
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray....

A: 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



*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>The First Noel</i>	<i>LBW 56</i>
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>LBW 41</i>
<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	<i>LBW 55</i>
<i>"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"</i>	<i>LBW 50</i>
<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	<i>LBW 70</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.

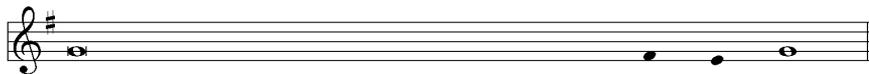
C: Amen

***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.



***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

LBW 39

***DIMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Phillips

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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.

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.

You're Invited!
The Celebration Continues tomorrow:
Sunday, December 25th
11:00 a.m. Worship

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:	\$82,000.00
Benevolence:	\$20,000.00

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.



The flower chart for 2023 has been posted in the narthex. Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event. Flowers are \$50.00.



Vanco Electronic Giving APP

You can make a contribution to St. John's through a mobile app!

To get started, download “Vanco Mobile” for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for “Vanco Mobile” to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history. We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry and thank you for your support!

1. Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone.
2. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church.
3. Do NOT use a PERIOD after St, or comma in Johns to search.
4. Select St Johns Lutheran Church, 218 North Jefferson St, Kittanning PA.
5. Your information should be automatically transferred if you have an account with Give Plus already.
6. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
7. Log in or donate as a guest.
8. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	Karen Waugaman
Lector	Nancy Pierce
Communion Assistants	Nancy Pierce & Karen Waugaman
Acolyte	TBA
Camera Operator	TBA

Musicians for Christmas Eve

Dan Minnich, Trumpet
Dave Lindeman, Euphonium
Brendan Swanson, Baritone

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Christine Lettrich
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer
Sexton	Michael Craft

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of our choirs, to our director of music, Rebecca Veith, our pianist, Elizabeth Cramer and to our instrumental accompanists for the beautiful and special music at our service this evening.

St. John's is streaming live on YouTube at St. John's Kittanning.

The office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th.

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