

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

September 13, 2026

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

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 **Sixteenth 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:

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*“Harmonia Organica”**Kindermann****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“God, Whose Almighty Word”**LBW 400****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.**

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



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

♩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (half), B4-A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (half).

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.

♩ 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. **C** A - men


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:

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace, that, pursuing what You have promised, we may share Your heavenly glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 50:15–21

A The First Lesson is from the fiftieth chapter of Genesis.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'"

And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 103:1–13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

**⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**⁶The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

**⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 14:1–12

A The Second Lesson is from the fourteenth chapter of Romans.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment

on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

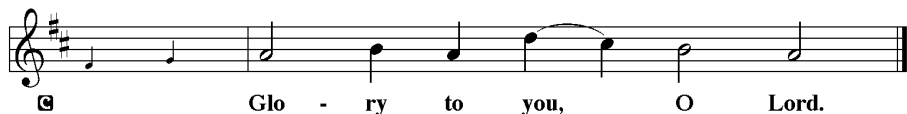
A Here ends the reading



GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 18:21–35

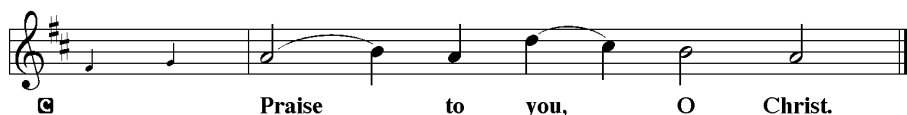
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.



²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I

will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

LBW 126

SERMON

Joyful Abundance Overflowing

We live by the grace and mercy of God.
Blessed are those who forgive without remembering
and who receive forgiveness without forgetting.

***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**

***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.

We are your debtors in so many ways, dear Father! We sometimes forget how even small sins can, if unrepented and unforgiven, run up a soul-crushing "tab." Thank you for being willing to cancel our debt. Keep us mindful of the costly generosity of your beloved Son. Give us his grace and strength, to willingly forgive the debts of those who have wronged us.

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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” WOV 721

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Grand Chorus”

Marchand

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S

Today

9:45 a.m.	Rally Day Breakfast
10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
11:00 a.m.	Worship
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Kickoff Picnic Fleeger Meadow

Monday 9/14

7:00 p.m. Council

Wednesday 9/23

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 9/24

9:30 a.m. Children’s Hour
1:00 p.m. Newsletter Mailing
2:45 p.m. Catechism
7:00 p.m. Catechism

Sunday 9/27

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

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 27	Progressive Workshop Dinner
Oct 11	Generosity Sunday / Harvest Home
Oct 25	Reformation Sunday
Nov 8	Turkey / Ham Dinner
Dec 6	Christmas Concert



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."**

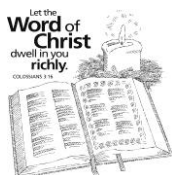


Internet Streaming St. John's Live

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.



Pastor's Sunday School Class . . .

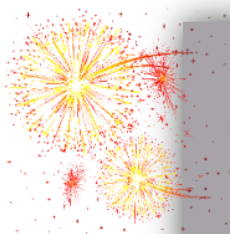
. . . will be an adventure through the book of Acts of the Apostles. How the Holy Spirit worked through the early church is instructive for our life of faith today.

We will be receiving New Members next Sunday,
September 20th.
Please talk to Pastor Johnson if you would like to
join St. John's.



Wednesday Bible Study

Ordination of Women 6:30 pm



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**



Jesus loves you



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Acolytes
Camera Operator

Gene Hughes
Christine Whiteman
TBA
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 to God and in loving honor of Alan & Betty Mitchell's 18th wedding anniversary.

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



St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

