

# 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](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

Church e-mail: [stjohnskittanning@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskittanning@gmail.com)

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**December 5, 2021**

**11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE**



**2ND SUNDAY** OF *Advent*

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

*Lord, in the eagerness of our anticipation to celebrate the day of Your birth, give us the calmness of spirit to discern and recognize Your own coming to us today in this worship service. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel"*

*Rowley*

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** We worship this day in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P** Holy and gracious God,

**C I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness.**

**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**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

*LBW 26*

**\*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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



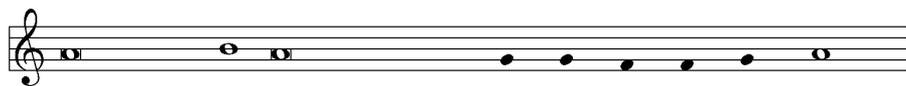
☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of Your only Son. By His coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN**

**FIRST LESSON:**

**MALACHI 3:1-4**

**A** The First Lesson is from the third chapter of Malachi.

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they

will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**A** Here ends the reading.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*LBW 34, v. 1-2*

## ADVENT READING

### CANTICLE:

**LUKE 1:68–79**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.

**<sup>69</sup>He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through his holy prophets he promised of old

<sup>71</sup>that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.

**<sup>72</sup>He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**<sup>74</sup>free to worship him without fear,**

**<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the LORD to prepare his way,

**<sup>77</sup>to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**<sup>79</sup>to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### SECOND LESSON:

**PHILIPPIANS 1:3–11**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Philippians.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that

you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**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 3:1-6**

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

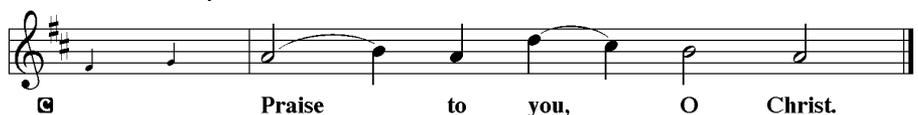
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY    *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"*

LBW 36

### SERMON

#### \*NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

#### \*THE PRAYERS

Let us intercede before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the sake of the Church, the world and one another.

*A brief silence*

Thank you, dear Father, for promising that not one of your lambs, tended by your Son, the Good Shepherd, shall be lost and lead them to his embrace. 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 Jesus Christ our LORD.

**C**    **Amen**

#### ANTHEM

*"Emmanuel"*

*arr. Allen*

**\*OFFERTORY**



☐ 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.

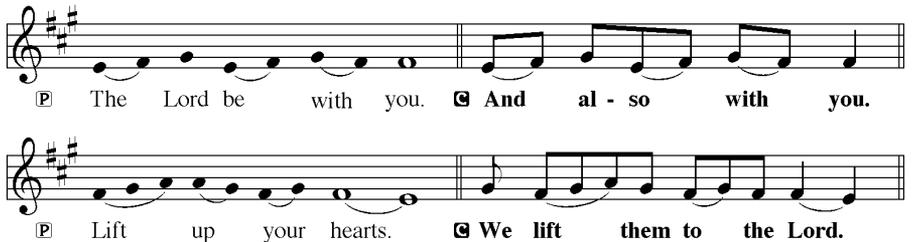
**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A** 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**



☐ The Lord be with you. ☐ And al - so with you.  
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☐ 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.

**\* 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, almighty and ever living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

**C** 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.

**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

**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 HYMNS

LBW 197, 22, 31, 214, 224

### \*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.*

**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

## CLOSING HYMN

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

*LBW 29*

## \*DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*"Prepare Thyself, Zion"*

*Bach*

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*A Nursery/Cry Room is available on the second floor of the Education Building for those who may need it.*



**TONIGHT IS THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT 7PM!  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!**



The Heifer Gift Ark offers hope worldwide to families who are poor and hungry. You'll help families start on a journey to fulfill a seemingly impossible dream - to secure food and a source of dependable income. Each family who receives livestock will pass on one or more of the animal's offspring to other families who are in need in their community. Every gift will multiply for years to come. Imagine how your gift could change the world.

For only \$20, a family in need can be provided with a starter flock of chicks or ducks. Honeybees and their hive can be given for a \$30 donation, and \$120 will provide a family with either a goat or a pig. Not only does the family receive the animal, but they also receive the supplies and education necessary to care for their livestock. Through livestock, training and passing on the gift, Heifer has helped over 30 million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and move toward greater self-reliance.

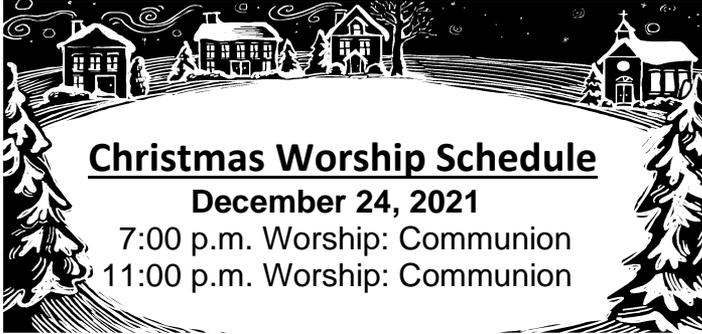
Join us on **Today, December 5, 2021 following worship** for our Advent soup and sandwich luncheon and give generously to this cause. The menu will consist of your choice of Chicken Noodle or Potato Soup, a variety of slider sandwiches and dessert. For those who wish to donate, checks payable to St. John's should have "Fill the Ark" or "Heifer" listed on the memo line. If you're unable to stay following worship but would like a meal, please let the church office know before noon on Friday, December 3rd and we'll have your lunch packed ready to go.

### **Congregational Meeting Next Sunday:**

Sunday, December 12th following 11:00 am worship for the purpose of electing new Congregational Council members and voting on designating the 2020 New Church Building Fund interest for the building loan and to ratify the Constitutional Amendments to the NALC Constitution.



**The flower chart for 2022 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.



**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS**

<b>Today</b>	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School/Pageant practice
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Advent Luncheon
	5:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsals
	7:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Concert</b>
<b>Tuesday 12/7</b>	7:00 p.m.	Property Committee
<b>Wednesday 12/8</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	No choir practices
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas in the Barn - St. Mark's, 256 Adrian Sherrett Road, Adrian
<b>Thursday 12/9</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
<b>Saturday 12/11</b>	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
<b>Sunday 12/12</b>	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Rock of our Salvation
	9:30 a.m.	Junior Choir
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School/Pageant rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	<b>Congregational meeting</b>



**Christmas Pageant  
Rehearsal Begins...  
Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>  
during Sunday School  
at 9:45am-10:40am**

We will add more if necessary.

This year we are performing...

**12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!**

**Adopt A  
Family**



**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 wrapped and a gift tag on each gift with the name of the child.

**IMPORTANT!** The gifts should be brought to the church by next **Sunday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>** AND each package marked with a sticky note attached on the outside describing the item inside and the name of the child (*this information is for the committee only*).

Any questions: contact Michelle Kozlowski at: 724-816-1680



*Looking for Volunteers to coordinate the  
stocking & maintaining of Katie's Cupboard*

Open - no questions asked, **Katie's Cupboard** fills gaps in services provided by organizations with operating hours and/or requiring paperwork/documentation. **It also encourages community and love for neighbor.** Join us in supporting Katie's Cupboard project in two ways. Purchase items when grocery shopping and place inside the cupboard. Volunteer to work on the "keep it stocked committee" to find ways to sustain this outreach through the congregation and community.

## ***Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!***

*Amounts needed in offerings during November and December to meet our budget in the following accounts:*

Current Account:	\$112,945.54
Benevolence:	\$22,315.00

**Every November and 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! Please consider increasing your giving and/or making a significant one time gift over and above your normal offerings. 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.

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Comm Assistants  
Acolyte  
Greeters  
Camera Operator

Gene Hughes  
John Swanson  
Brett & Megan Taylor  
Landon Crissman  
Smith family  
Bill Bouch

## STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith  
Christine Lettrich  
Michael Craft  
Rebecca Veith  
Elizabeth Cramer



**The flowers on the altar** this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Beverley Sarver from Valerie, Dennis, Steve, Beverley, Jackson & Wyatt Lager.

## 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**