

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street
Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

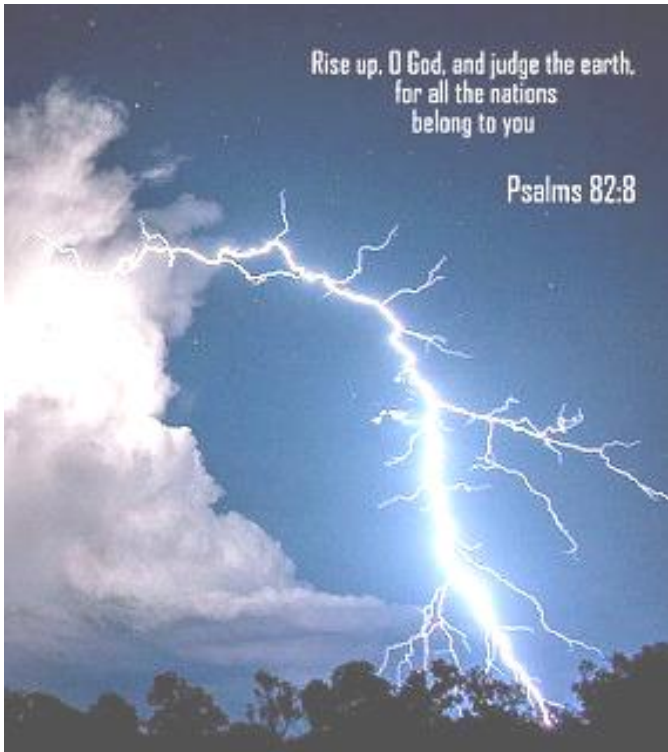
Phone (724) 548-2051 Parsonage: 724-548-5512

Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

August 17, 2025 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 the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **Tenth 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:

Heavenly Father, endow us richly with Your Spirit, and by Your grace, sustain our faith, dispelling our doubts and confusion, and keep us faithful to Your Word. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Beach Spring"

arr. Linker

***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**

"Thy Strong Word"

LBW 233

***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



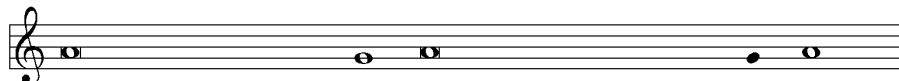
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



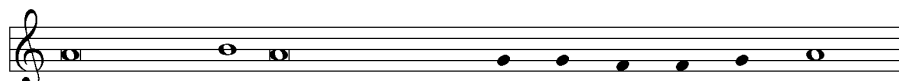
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

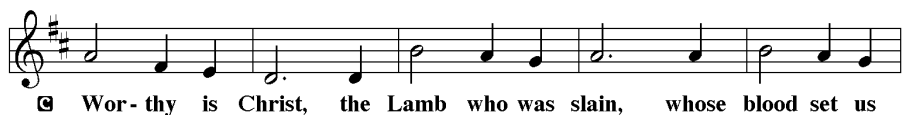


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A 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.



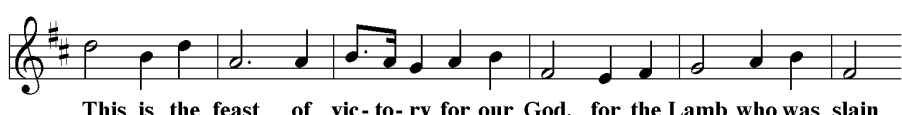
Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



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.

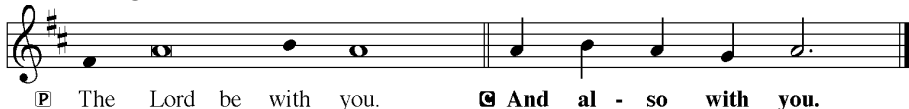


This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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.

O God, judge eternal, You love justice and hate oppression, and You call us to share Your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following Your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

FIRST LESSON:

Jeremiah 23:23–29

A The First Lesson is from the twenty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?

²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD.

²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

Psalms 82

God takes his stand in the council of heaven;
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

**²How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

³Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

**⁴rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand;
they go about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**⁶Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

**⁸Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND LESSON:

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A The Second Lesson is from the eleventh & twelfth chapters of Hebrews.

²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne 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 12:49-56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 12th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

L The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"* **LBW 230**

SERMON **FAMILY VALUES**

***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**

***THE PRAYERS**

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

A brief silence

Father, sometimes your word dismays us! We don't like to hear about divine fire, judgment, and division. Make us brave and steadfast in faith. Give us ears to rightly hear, and hearts to rightly repent. Give us grace to show the fruits of repentant faith, to your glory and for the good of your people. 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.

OFFERING

*"Prelude in C"
Ella Fennell, Pianist*

Bach

***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 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



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** 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.

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:



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**

**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

CLOSING HYMN

"How Firm a Foundation"

LBW 507

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“A Festive Trumpet Tune”

Martin

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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 8/17	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	Noon	Council & Stewardship Meeting
Monday 8/18	7:00 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting
Thursday 8/21	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Mailing
Sunday 8/24	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Rock of Our Salvation
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion

For 200 years St. John’s has been a bright beacon of Christ’s light and life for the world. 200 years and the work continues: That all might know Christ’s Love.

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 EACH OTHER, AND TO SPREAD THAT LOVE WITH THE WORLD.



**NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



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."**



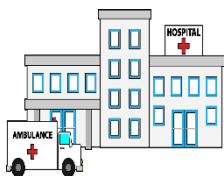
Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast

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 and program information, Youth Events including photos from the recent QUAKE trip, and more.



Heading into the hospital?

If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please contact the office @ 724-548-2051. Because of confidentiality issues, the hospitals are not as helpful in notifying us as they once were.

Katie's Cupboard



With long summer days & weekends with insufficient access to food as school is out of session, bubbles, coloring books and sidewalk chalk helps entertain the little ones at home or daycare and are always welcome.

Katie's Cupboard @ St Johns will be needed more than ever! If you should bring your items on a Sunday, please leave on the cart in the Gathering Space. *It is still **always possible** to leave in the cupboard daily as the Holy Spirit moves you!* This way we can bless the cupboard thru the week and weekends consistently.

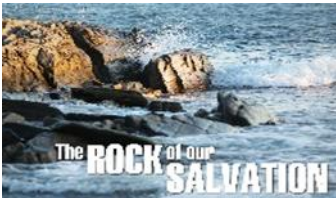
Pray over this, when you are shopping what needs do YOU address for your household that you could purchase to bless this ministry as well?

Please remember you are feeding Jesus' flock
No opened, used, home canned or expired items please.



Women's Bible Study

will be canceled for August.
See you again in September.



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday,
August 17th and 24th 2025

Throughout the Summer we are holding two Sunday morning worship services; 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There is no reason to miss praising our Lord!



Reminder

When ordering altar flowers please turn the pink slip in to the office with all relevant information. Thank you.

Disaster Relief: The Social Ministry project is collecting items to be inserted in 5 gallon “flood buckets” for disasters. These buckets are being sent where emergency relief efforts are needed. . If you would like to donate money towards making the health kits, please mark your envelope - **Health Kits**.

Bucket Checklist

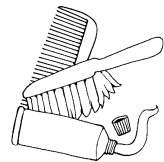
- 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- 1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or smaller)
- 2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil)
- 1 roll paper towels
- 2 rags
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- scrub brush
- gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred
 - leather
 - cotton
 - rubber (reusable, i.e. Playtex, dishwashing type)



Health Care Kit Checklist

(Pack in 2-gallon plastic storage bag or tote bag)

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth (optional)
- 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush (individually sealed)
- 1 pack of floss (optional)
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers (optional)



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers	Julie Smith (E) Emily Bouch (L)
Lectors	Marlee Smith (E) William Bouch (L)
Comm Assistants	Amber Zurn, Lori Young (E) Tabitha Bowser, Karen Waugaman (L)
Acolytes	Mitchell Wranich (E) Lucas Bowser (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Bill Bouch (L)

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Angela B. Clever
Sexton	TBD
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music	Rebecca Veith
Sr. Choir Accompanist	Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Charles Duncan's 50th wedding anniversary (Aug 16th) by his loving wife Sandy Duncan.

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



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Kittanning, PA