

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

January 4, 2026
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14

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 **Second Sunday After Christmas**. 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:

We lift our voices in prayer to You, Lord, and You hear; we present our lives in prayer, and You see; grant to us Your peace and wholeness in all that we do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE*"Noel"**Guilmant****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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"**LBW 45****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.

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.

C 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. C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE

A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

A The First Lesson is from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,
I will make them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,
for I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’

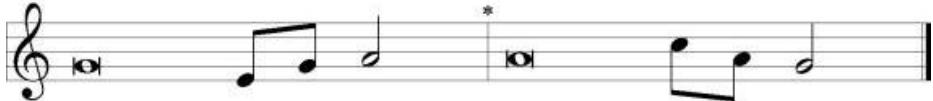
¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the LORD.”

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:**Psalm 147:13–21**

Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;*
praise your | God, O Zion;

14for He has strengthened the bars | of your gates;*
He has blessed your chil- | dren within you.

15He has established peace | on your borders;*
He satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

16He sends out His command | to the earth,*
and His word runs | very swiftly.

17He gives | snow like wool;*
He scatters hoar- | frost like ashes.

18He scatters His | hail like bread crumbs.*
Who can stand a- | gainst His cold?

19He sends forth His | word and melts them;*
He blows with His wind, and the | waters flow.

20He declares His | word to Jacob,*
His statutes and His judg- | ments to Israel.

21He has not done so to any | other nation;*
to them He has not revealed His judgments. | Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON:**Ephesians 1:3–14**

A The Second Lesson is from the first chapter of Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us

for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the

forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set

forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**
GOSPEL:**John 1:1-18**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P The Gospel of the LORD.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" LBW 55

SERMON "Homoousios"

*NICENE CREED

C 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 pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Light of the World, your dear Son Jesus! Thank you for revealing your mercy and loving-kindness to all people. Thank you that he reveals you as the God of every kindred, nation, and tribe, until the world ends and Christ is all in all.

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.

ANTHEM

"I Saw Three Ships"

Trad. English

*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

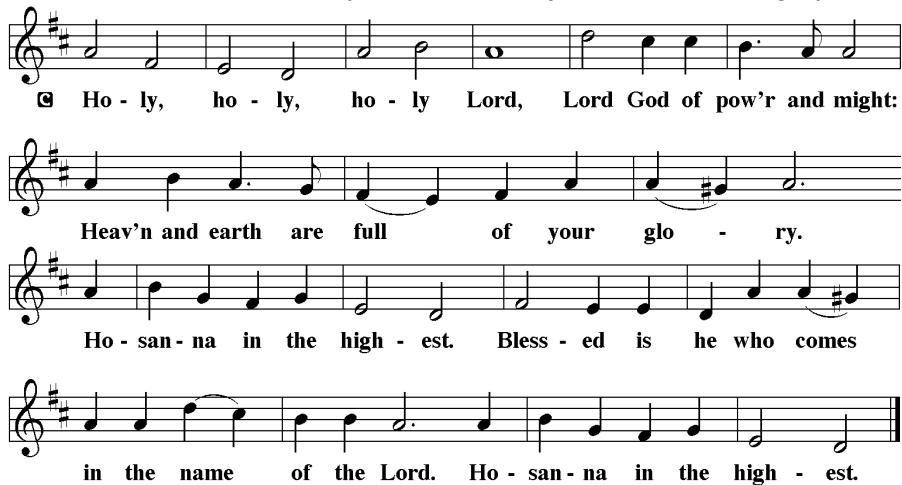
A Blessed are You,

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. 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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.

EUCARISTIC 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.

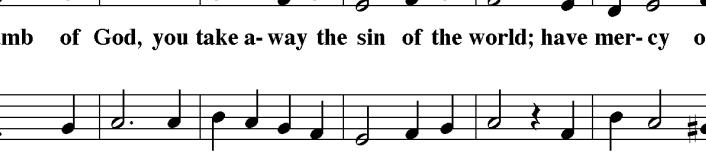
Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

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**


C 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, 2 VERSES OF EACH: *LBW 65, 50, 54, 40, 70, WOV 645*

***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)*

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.... 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

*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.



HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LBW 39

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Go, Tell it On the Mountain"

arr. Hancock

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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.

Mark Your Calendars

January 25	Congregational Meeting
February 1	Eric Cook Day
February 18	Ash Wednesday
March 14	CPR Certification
April 5	Easter
May 3	Spring Concert
May 24	Pentecost Sunday (Confirmation)



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



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."

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

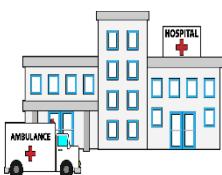
www.stjohnskittanning.org

Here you will find: Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events and program information, Youth Events including photos from the recent QUAKE trip, and more.



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>



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.

The flower chart for 2026 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. You may also call the church office. **Flowers are \$70.00.**



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 1/4	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
Wednesday 1/7	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	6:15 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 a.m.	PJ's Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 1/8	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Saturday 1/10	8:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 1/11	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion



... at St. Johns Kittanning
Jan. 20th 6:15-7:30pm

Dinner, Bible Story,

Exciting, faith building

interactive stations with games,

crafts and activities!

Preschool-6th Grade

COST: FREE!



Parents! Stay and hang out,
relax and rest, or run some errands!

Please Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321

for weather updates,
announcements and reminders

REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT

www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning



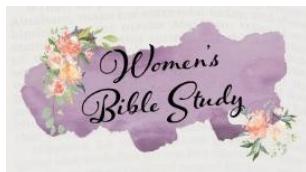
January Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 10th at 8:00 a.m.

The men of St. John's will be meeting Saturday morning for breakfast and study. Following the meal will be a brief program concluding by 9:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study . . .

. . . will return at the King's restaurant on **Tuesday, January 13th at noon**. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at rosetrix38@comcast.net. All are welcome!



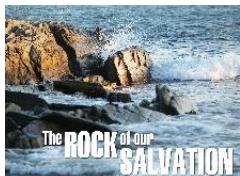
Eric Cook Day

February 1st



In celebration of his contribution to St. John's worship life as organist and bell choir director from 2003 to 2007 Eric will be playing the organ for us once again. He will be honored with a coffee hour following worship.

As we celebrate 200 years of music in the church praising God, we thank God for Eric's worship leadership.



Rock of our Salvation Worship

8:30 a.m. Sunday,
January 18th



ANNUAL REPORTS

All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers, ***please submit your reports to the church office by***

January 8th. Our goal is to have the reports ready ***2 weeks*** prior to the Annual meeting January 26th. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it!

Please e-mail your report to:

stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	Rebecca Swanson (E)
Lector	Mollie Bouch (L)
Communion	Mitchell Wranich (E)
	Val Lager (L)
Acolytes	Lori Young & Amber Zurn (E)
	Sue Neal, Sue Barto, Deb & William Bouch (L)
Welcome Team	Mitchell Wranich (E)
	Kendall Bailey (L)
Camera Operators	The Zurn Family (E)
	Jessica & Quinten Bailey (L)
	Robert John (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

*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.*

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.

