

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

December 26, 2021

8:30 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 Word and Sacrament this morning as we celebrate the feast of **St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr**. 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:

Create in us, Father, the spirit of humility so that we may stand receptive in the presence of Your coming; and shine through us so that all may see in us, the true love and greatness of You, our Lord and God. Amen.

PRELUDE

*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

*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.

*DIALOG

P: Blessed is He who comes as King,
who comes in the name of the Lord,

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say -

C: a voice that speaks for peace.

P: Peace for all people and for his friends.

C: and those who turn to Him in their hearts.

P: His help is near for those who fear Him.

C: and His glory will live in our land.

P: Blessed is He who comes as King,
who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you,

P Let us pray. Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

2 CHRONICLES 24:17–22

A The First Lesson is from the twenty-fourth chapter of Second Chronicles.

¹⁷ Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. ¹⁸ And they abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹ Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you."

²¹ But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. ²² Thus, Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, "May the Lord see and avenge!"

²³ At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. ²⁴ Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the Lord delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers. Thus, they executed judgment on Joash.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 17:1–9, 16

Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD; give heed to my cry;
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

**²Let my vindication come forth from your presence;
let your eyes be fixed on justice.**

³Weigh my heart, summon me by night,
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

**⁴I give no offense with my mouth as others do;
I have heeded the words of your lips.**

⁵My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law;
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.

**⁶I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me;
incline your ear to me and hear my words.**

⁷Show me your marvelous loving kindness,
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.

**⁸Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings,**

⁹from the wicked who assault me,
from my deadly enemies who surround me.

**¹⁶But at my vindication I shall see your face;
when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

***HYMN OF JOY**

SECOND LESSON:

ACTS 6:8—7:2A; 7:51–60A

The Second Lesson is from the sixth & seventh chapters of Acts.

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

7:1 And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" ² And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

A Here ends the reading.

P Alleluia

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 23:34–39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 23rd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁴ Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵ so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not

willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

SERMON

***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**

For the Church, the world, for one another, and for the sake of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy, righteousness, peace, and love you lavish upon us in Jesus! Thank you for every moment of healing, forgiveness and hope that happens in this sin-damaged and death-shadowed world. Thank you for your peace that passes human understanding and endures past human malice. Whatever our circumstances, give us hearts filled with lasting joy and imperishable hope. Give us grace to be thank-filled and to lead others to the joy of knowing Jesus. 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

SEE INSERT

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them up to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER IV**

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

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.

*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.

Communion

Communion Hymn:

WOV 740

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ strengthen
and keep you in His grace, unto eternal life.

*C: Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*A: Pour out the Spirit of Your Love, Oh Lord,
and unite the wills of those You have fed with one heavenly food;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P As you go on your way may Christ go with you.
May He go before you to show you the way;
May He go behind you to encourage you;
Beside you to befriend you;
Above you to watch over you and within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***CLOSING HYMN**

SEE INSERT

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SEE INSERT

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



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.

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:	\$86,000.00
Benevolence:	\$19,584.00

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.

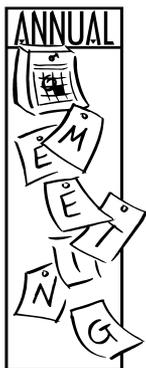
JANUARY YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Sunday, January 9th: Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm – Camo Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, January 16th: Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm – Winter Games

Sunday, January 23rd: Project Hope Film Festival 1:30 pm @ Pittsburgh Mills

Sunday, January 30th: No Youth Group



Annual Congregational Meeting **Scheduled for Sunday** **January 23th, 2022**

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 23rd. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2022 and elect an endowment trustee.



ANNUAL REPORTS

All Committee chairs, Sunday school presidents, organization presidents and treasurers, ***please submit your reports to the church office by January 5th***. Our goal is to have the reports ready **2 weeks** prior to the Annual meeting January 23rd. With everyone's cooperation, we can do it! If possible, please e-mail your report to:

stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

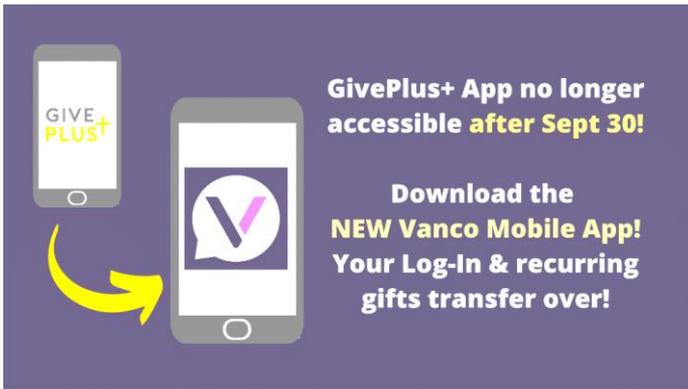
THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 12/26	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Hymn Sing
Monday 12/27		Office Closed – Merry Christmas!
Wednesday 12/29	7:00 p.m.	Pastor's Study
Friday 12/31		Office Closed – Happy New Year!
Sunday 1/2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion

Pastor's Study

Wednesday, December 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

We will begin by looking at the NALC Sacramental Practices statement. This is a good review of what the Small Catechism says about the sacraments, with added commentary/Bible Study.



**Electronic Giving APP has Changed!
Company is the same.**

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.

For those already using Give Plus, the app will no longer be available after January 2022.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers	Nancy Pierce (E) Sara Shafer (L)
Lectors	Patty Kirkpatrick (E) Roger Mechling (L)
Communion Assistants	Patty Kirkpatrick, Jill Wranich (E)
Acolytes	Anna Choncek (E) Colvin Adkins (L)
Greeters	Wranich family (E) Shafer family (L)
Camera Operators	Nick Wranich (E) Keith Livengood (L)

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Christine Lettrich
Sexton	Michael Craft
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 celebration of Carol Runninger's 79th birthday from her family.

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