

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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Church Web Site: [www.stjohnskittanning.org](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**May 15, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE**

*"I give you a new  
commandment, that you love  
one another. Just as I have  
loved you, you also should love  
one another."*

*John 13:34, NRSV*



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 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**. 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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 15, 2022**

*Prayer upon entering God's House:*

*Eternal God, help us to maintain our focus on Your glory, rather than on the glories of the world. We turn our hearts to You as the Holy Giver of all life. Deepen our devotion to You. Hear us, O Lord, we pray Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Prelude Invocation"*

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**

*"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"*

LBW 143

**\*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.



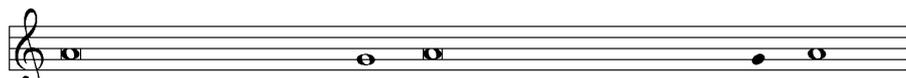
**A** For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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

\*Those who are able, please stand

LBW—Green Hymnal WOV—Blue Hymnal



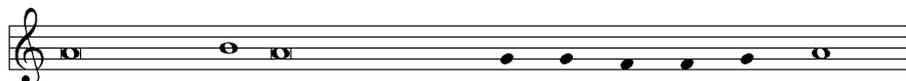
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



**Q** 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, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 11:1–18

**A** The First Lesson is from the eleventh chapter of Acts.

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**A** Here ends the reading.



Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;\*  
praise him | in the heights.

**2Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\*  
praise him, | all his host.**

**3Praise him, | sun and moon;\*  
praise him, all you | shining stars.**

**4Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\*  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

**5Let them praise the name | of the LORD;\*  
for he commanded, and they | were created.**

**6He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\*  
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away. R**

**7Praise the LORD | from the earth,\*  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;**

**8fire and hail, | snow and fog,\*  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

**9mountains | and all hills,\*  
fruit trees | and all cedars;**

**10wild beasts | and all cattle,\*  
creeping things and | winged birds;**

**11kings of the earth | and all peoples,\*  
princes and all rulers | of the world;**

**12young | men and maidens,\*  
old and | young together. R**

**13Let them praise the name | of the LORD,\*  
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.**

**14He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his | loyal servants,\*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. |  
Hallelujah! R**

## SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:1-6

**A** The Second Lesson is from the twenty-first chapter of Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the

holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

**A** Here ends the reading.

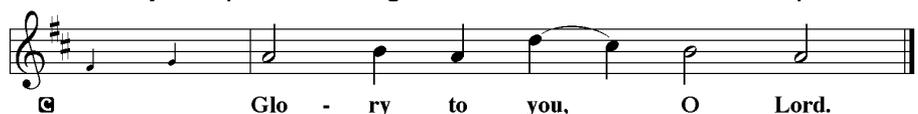
**\*VERSE**



**\*GOSPEL**

**John 13:31–35**

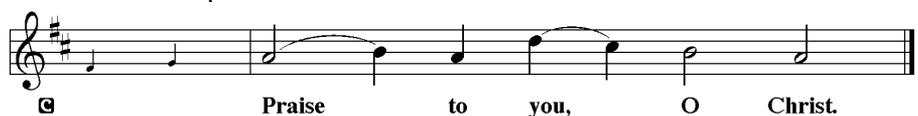
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.



<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY     *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*     LBW 315

### 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

Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Resurrection and the Life! You bestow, here and now, a vision of that new creation, in which sin and death are no more. Our words falter as we truly are "lost in wonder, love, and praise." To you alone, blessed Jesus, be the glory!

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 am Bound for the Kingdom"*

*arr. Larson*

#### \*OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gather a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gather 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.

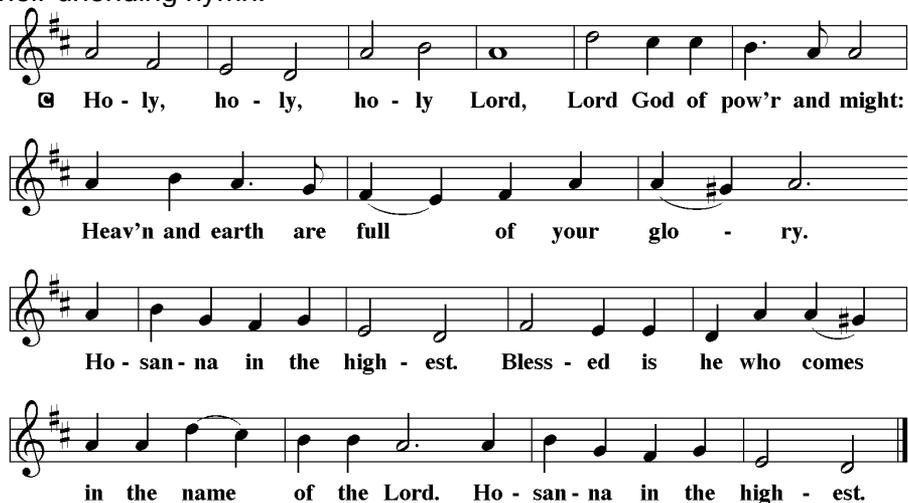
**A** Blessed are You,

**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.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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**



**☩ 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 203, 377, 558, 363, 200*

**\*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.

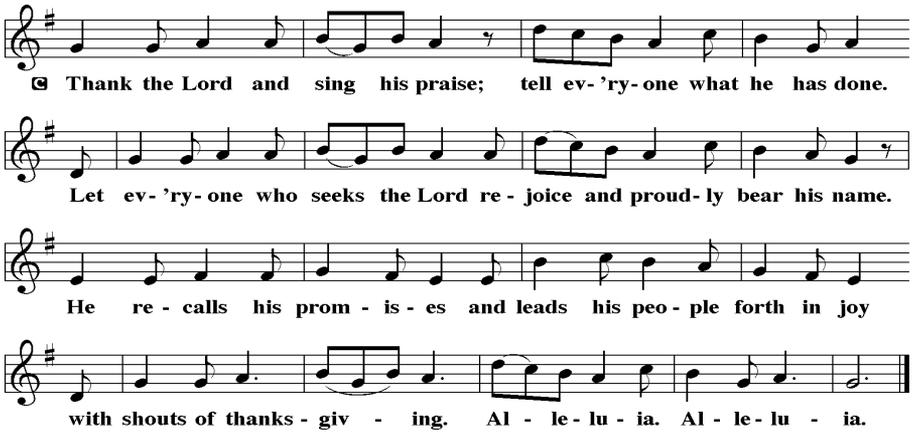
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**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....We give You thanks almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in Your mercy You would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of 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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*"Beautiful Savior"*

*LBW 518*

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*"Grande Chorus"*

*Guilmant*

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

**Mark the Dates:**

**Today** is the Congregational Meeting to vote on approving the gift of the Baby Grand Piano and modifying the pews accordingly.

**Next Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Celebration of Pastor Johnson's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

<b>TODAY</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting <i>No Youth Group</i>
<b>Monday 5/16</b>	7:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Meeting
<b>Wednesday 5/18</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	Junior Choir
	8:00 p.m.	Senior Choir
<b>Thursday 5/19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter mailing
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
<b>Sunday 5/22</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Pastor's Ordination Anniversary
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group

## *Katie's Cupboard needs your help!*

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!



# Pentecost Flowers

If you would like to order geraniums to be placed in the church for Pentecost on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to St. John's Lutheran Church at 218 N. Jefferson Street., Kittanning. Checks should be made out to *St. John's Lutheran Church* with "Pentecost flowers" in the memo line. Flowers are \$5.00 each. **Deadline for ordering is Friday, May 27th.**

(Please indicate below the number of flowers desired)

Red Geraniums \_\_\_\_\_ White Geraniums \_\_\_\_\_

In **Memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In **Honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my flower with me today: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take my flower to a shut-in: \_\_\_\_\_



## A Letter from Bishop Selbo:

We encourage you to be praying for the people in Ukraine, for the families torn apart by the war, for the humanitarian efforts that will be needed for some time, as well as for the hearts of the leaders of Russia and Ukraine to find ways to bring this conflict to an end, to move forward in ways that would lead to peace, and that people would be

drawn to the One in whom all lasting peace is found, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following prayer for Ukraine is offered for your use, individually, as families and in your congregations:

*Gracious God, we come to You as people who know we have fallen short of Your call, who are in daily need of Your forgiveness and grace, and who have no lasting hope apart from the promises we have in Jesus. And yet we come with thankful and expectant hearts, knowing that You have promised to hear and to answer prayer.*

*We pray for You to be working in the hearts and the lives of the people in Russia and the Ukraine who are caught in this senseless war and whose lives are being torn apart because of the conflict. We pray for the families who have been separated from their loved ones, for those who have been physically hurt as a result of the fighting, and for those lives that have been lost. We pray, Lord, that You would open doors for peace talks and negotiations to happen that would bring an end to the war and that would save the lives of many for whom our Lord Jesus died.*

*Work through the nations of our world, through their governments, the United Nations, and through those leaders who have authority and opportunity to influence and impact what is happening in Christ-honoring ways. Be with our missionaries and mission agencies — that their work would be a witness to the love You have for all people, and to the desire You have for Your world that we would live in peace.*

*Help us to never lose sight of the promises we have in Jesus and to never lose hope in the One who, through His cross and resurrection from the dead, has overcome the world. In His most holy and precious name we pray. Amen.*

**“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

**—John 16:33 NIV**

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

- |                      |                                  |                 |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assisting Minister   |                                  | Chery Mechling  |
| Lector               |                                  | Richard Thorell |
| Communion Assistants | Deb & Mollie Bouch, Nancy Pierce |                 |
| Acolyte              |                                  | TBA             |
| Greeters             |                                  | Tammy Fleeger   |
| Camera Operator      |                                  | Keith Livengood |

**STAFF MEMBERS**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Director of Children’s & Youth Ministry | Julie Smith |
|---|-------------|

Secretary  
Sexton  
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music  
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Christine Lettrich  
Michael Craft  
Rebecca Veith  
Elizabeth Cramer

### **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