

# St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: 724-548-5512

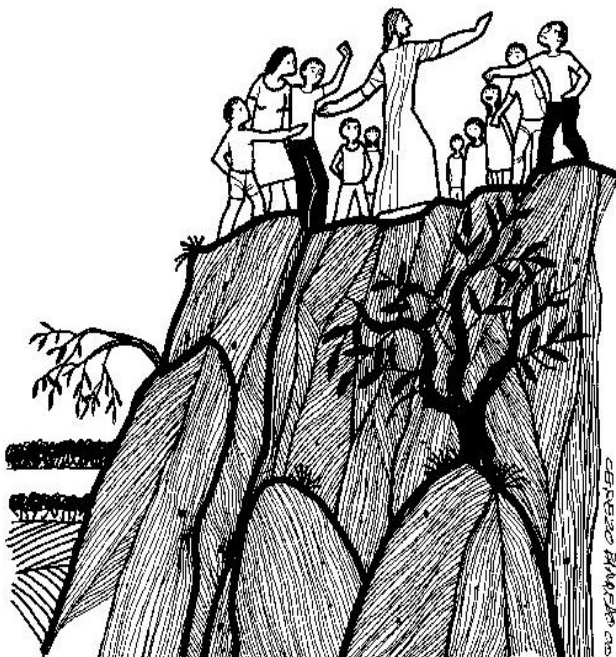
Church Web Site: [www.stjohnskittanning.org](http://www.stjohnskittanning.org)

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

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**February 16, 2025**

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



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

*Our Father in heaven, grant that we may find our joy in those things that are good and right; but especially grant that we may find our real joy and satisfaction in knowing and experiencing You. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE***"Be Thou My Vision"**arr. Bock***\*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***"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**LBW 250*

**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.



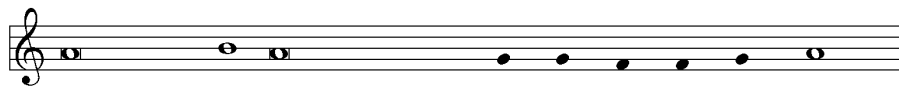
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

Lord God, mercifully receive the prayers of Your people. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**FIRST LESSON:**

**JEREMIAH 17:5-10**

**A** The First Lesson is from the seventeenth chapter of Jeremiah.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> He is like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see any good come.  
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

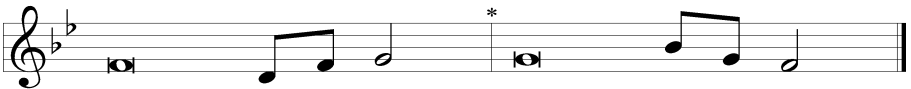
<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind,  
to give every man according to his ways,  
according to the fruit of his deeds.”

**A** Here ends the reading.

**PSALM:**

**PSALM 1**



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**SECOND LESSON:****1 CORINTHIANS 15:12–20**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians.

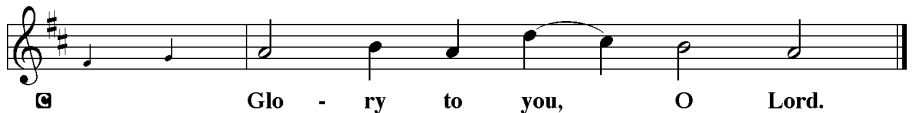
<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**A** Here ends the reading.

**\*VERSE****GOSPEL:****LUKE 6:17–26**

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



<sup>17</sup> And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

<sup>20</sup> And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

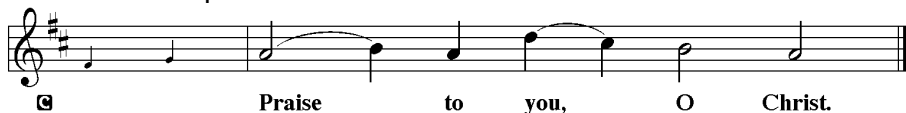
<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**\*HYMN**

*O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

*LBW 492*

**SERMON**

**THE WAY**

**\*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 draw near to the Light of Christ, offering prayer and supplication on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

*A brief silence*

Heavenly Father, thank you for grafting us to Christ, the Tree of life rich with abundant fruit. Thank you for planting us in the streams of living water, the Spirit flowing from your Son's pierced side. Thank you for raising us to new life in him. May we delight in him, meditate on him day and night, and produce the sweet fruit of repentance and righteousness. 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**

**\*PEACE**

**P** The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**ANTHEM**

*"Bought With a Price"*

*Sleeth*

**\*OFFERTORY**



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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. 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**



**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.

**\*OFFERTORY 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:**

**WOV 654, 701, 710, 711, 709**

**\*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

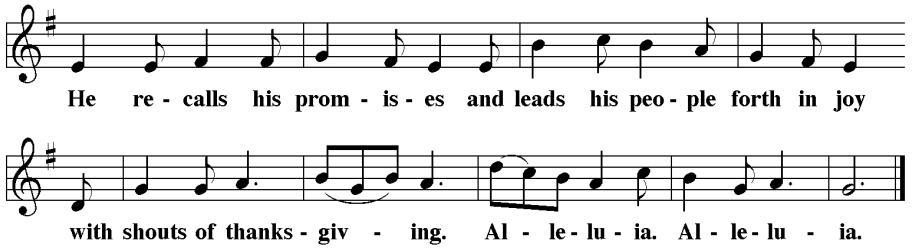
**\*CANTICLE**



**☉** 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.



**\*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.



**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Blessing and Honor*

*LBW 525*

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Finale”*

*Moore*

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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. Please plan to stay and rejoice in God’s love with one another.*

**Don’t forget to check out your Church Web Site:**

[www.stjohnskittanning.org](http://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.



**Next Pastor's Study: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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

<b>Today</b>	8:30 a.m.	Worship: Rock of our Salvation
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
<b>Tuesday 2/18</b>	6:15 – 7:30	SPARK Kids
<b>Wednesday 2/19</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	<b>NO Pastor's Bible study</b>
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
<b>Thursday 2/20</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 2/23</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	Noon	Habitat Luncheon
	2:30 p.m.	Family Ice Skating



**The flower chart for 2025 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 have increased to \$75.00 for the 2025 year.**



**Men's Bounty of the Earth Banquet 2025**

SUNDAY -March 23, 2025

**Help! We need donations of game to serve at our Bounty of the Earth Men's Banquet.** We will also be serving beef for those with less adventurous palettes.

## SPARK

February 18, 2025 - - - 6:15-7:30pm

Preschool-6th Grade - - - COST: FREE!

Dinner, Bible Story, Exciting Games, Fun, Crafts and More!

Parents, stay or run some errands.

**NEXT Spark Date March 18<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321


for weather updates, announcements and reminders

**REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT**

[www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning](http://www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning)



## Youth Events

**TODAY: Sunday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group**   
6:30-8pm

**Sunday Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Family Skate at the Belmont**  
2:30-4pm

(after date confirmed)

Cost: \$6, \$2 Skate Rental



*Historical binders can be  
found in the Gathering Space.  
They will be available throughout the year.*



### 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.***



**Habitat Luncheon Next Sunday,**  
**February 23, 2025**

St. John's Habitat Luncheon

Social Ministry & Fellowship Committee

will be holding a luncheon On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> following worship to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Please place your donations to benefit Armstrong County Habitat for Humanity by marking your offering envelope "Habitat Luncheon" in the space marked "other" and place in the offering plate during worship.

**Our menu is:** pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, vegetable, applesauce, cake and beverages.

## *Katie's Cupboard*

**Many thanks** to the folks who donated/gifted the sets of shelves for storing donated items. Our fellowship hall is much neater and contained and items are much more organized.

**Did you know**~ For your consideration: If you are a member of the rewards program at **Sprinkle's Neighborhood Market**, they have "free item Friday". You just need to make a purchase, pick up said the item (it's free) and then you can donate to Katie's.

**Shop-N-Save** always has their brand items and some great BOGO sales as well. Keep in mind if you don't need "4" of something, Katie's will gladly take the overage.

It's about time to think of spring cleaning and the Lenten reflection/cleaning of our hearts. If you could take and "March" your way to the local stores (**Dollar Tree** cleaning products work just fine) any cleaning item would be welcome.

***We are also beginning to shelf pet items.*** Meeting someone at the cupboard, they were so thankful for the tuna, not only for themselves but to share with their pet. Yes, Jesus reminds us to love and care for all God's animals.

If you would care to volunteer, have great ideas to further this ministry, offer suggestions ~please contact any member of council, **Amber Zurn** 724/902-9471 or **Tammy Fleeger** 724/664-1773.

*We also welcome cash donations so that the Social Ministry Committee can do the shopping for you. Thank you for your support!*

**We had a great response to the reverse Advent Calendar for Katie's Cupboard: Lent begins March 5<sup>th</sup> – get ready for the reverse Lent calendar!**



# Katie's Cupboard



## Lent begins

### *Reverse Lent Calendar*

*Instead of giving something UP during Lent,  
please consider giving something away!*

5-Mar	Spaghetti O's		29-Mar	Body Wash
6-Mar	Peanut Butter		30-Mar	Dried Milk
7-Mar	Vienna Sausage		31-Mar	Syrup
8-Mar	Boxed Potatoes		1-Apr	Pancake Mix
9-Mar	Shelf-stable Juice		2-Apr	Mixed Vegetables
10-Mar	Grape Jelly		3-Apr	Dinty Moore
11-Mar	Tuna Helper		4-Apr	Tuna
12-Mar	Macaroni/Cheese		5-Apr	Cornbread Mix
13-Mar	Canned Fruit		6-Apr	Canned Beef Stew
14-Mar	Canned Tomatoes		7-Apr	Shampoo
15-Mar	Alfredo Sauce		8-Apr	<i>Your favorite food</i>
16-Mar	Feminine Products		9-Apr	Kleenex
17-Mar	Monetary Donation		10-Apr	Muffin Mix
18-Mar	Canned Meat		11-Apr	Canned Fruit
19-Mar	Baked Beans		12-Apr	Sugar
20-Mar	Box of Crackers		13-Apr	Laundry Detergent
21-Mar	Rice		14-Apr	Conditioner
22-Mar	Flour		15-Apr	Cleaning Products
23-Mar	Pasta		16-Apr	Toothbrush/Toothpaste
24-Mar	Spaghetti Sauce		17-Apr	Hand Soap
25-Mar	Cereal		18-Apr	Deodorant
26-Mar	Canned Meat		19-Apr	Mens' DISPOSABLE razor
27-Mar	Tomato Soup		20-Apr	SPAM
28-Mar	Granola Bars			

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers	Rebecca Swanson (E) Rose Montgomery (L)
Lectors	Elizabeth John (E) Chris Choncek (L)
Comm Assistants	John Swanson & Melissa Venesky (E) Karen Waugaman, Susan Barto, Mollie Bouch, Deb Bouch (L)
Acolytes	Brody Hodak (E) Camren & Lucas Bowser, Callie Adkins, Ella Fennell (L)
Welcome team	The Hodak Family (E) Tabitha & Randy Bowser (L)
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich (E) Keith Livengood (L)

## STAFF MEMBERS

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

*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.*

**GRACE**  
*happens*



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Kittanning, PA