

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 15, 2024

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



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

“Wachet Auf”

Bach

***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**

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

LBW 25

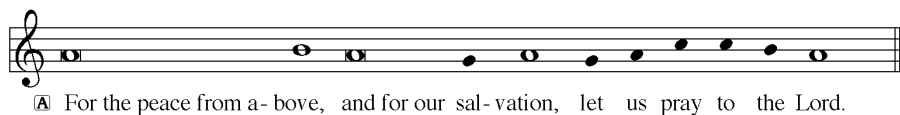
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

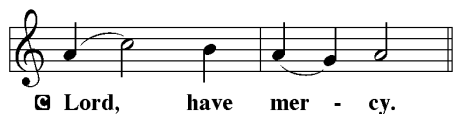
*KYRIE



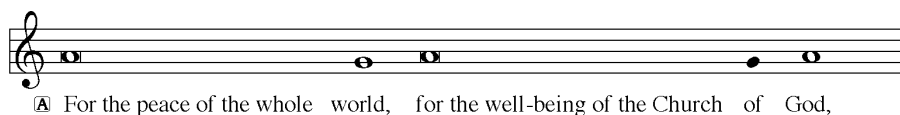
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



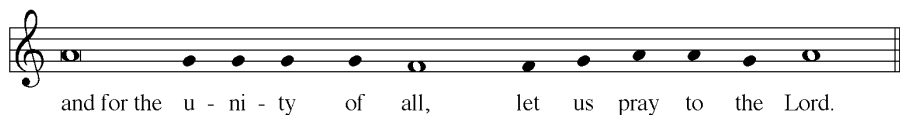
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



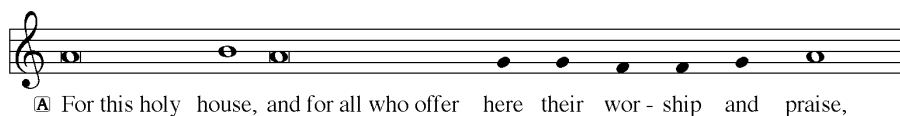
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son and to prepare His way. Grant us, Your people, the wisdom to see Your purpose today and the openness to hear Your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:**ZEPHANIAH 3:14–20**

A The First Lesson is from the third chapter of Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

A Here ends the reading.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE*LBW 34, v. 1-3***ADVENT READING****PSALM****ISAIAH 12:2–6**

Surely God is my salvation

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the LORD God is my strength and my might

He has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day

Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name.

make known His deeds among the nations
proclaim that His name is exalted.

**⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND LESSON:

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

The Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**



GOSPEL:

LUKE 3:7-18


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



⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

*OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

*THE PRAYERS

A 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 gifts You lavish upon us in Jesus! Thank You for every blessing You grant in this sin-damaged and death-shadowed world, for Your peace that passes human understanding and endures past human malice. Whatever our circumstances, give us hearts filled with joy and hope. Give us grace to thank You for Jesus, and to lead others to the joy of knowing Him.

A Lord in your mercy.

C 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

*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.**

*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

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

LBW 35

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Von Himmel Hoch"

Bach

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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 after worship.

Next Sunday: Kids Christmas Pageant

Is "A CAPITAL CHRISTMAS!"

Pageant will be Sunday Dec. 22nd. 10:00 a.m.

(Dress Rehearsal at 9:15 right before show)

Tonight 6:30 Youth Group Christmas Cookie Bake off

Christmas Tree Set Up and Decorating

This Tuesday, December 17th @ 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Decorating

After Church, Next Sunday, December 22nd

SPARK

CHRISTMAS EVENT **Preschool – 6th Grade**

Dec. 17th 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. COST: FREE!

Dinner, Christmas Story, Christmas crafts, Stations, and FUN! Parents!

Stay and hang out, OR go wrap presents, get ready for Christmas, or run some errands!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday 12/17	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
	5:00 p.m.	SPARK Christmas Event
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Tree Set Up
Wednesday 12/18	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	7:00 p.m.	P.J.'s Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Senior Bells
Thursday 12/19	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter mailing
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
Sunday 12/22	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	After Worship.	Decorating

Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!

Amounts needed in offerings during December to meet our budget in the following accounts:

Current Account:	\$58,000.00
Benevolence:	\$22,000.00

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! Please consider increasing your giving and/or making a significant one-time gift over and above your normal offerings. 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.

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



"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them....
That's how prayer works" ~ Pope Francis



We are offering the Reverse Advent Calendar this year again for your family's use.....

As winter is preparing for full swing, please remember Katie's after the holiday season. The need for a warm meal and necessities does not change. HOWEVER, you are impacting lives in the greatest of ways as Jesus commanded, "love your neighbor".



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR KATIE'S CUPBOARD 2024

Day 1	Box of Cereal	Day 13	Saltines
Day 2	Dish Detergent	Day 14	Cleaning solutions for home
Day 3	Complete meal soup (ex Spaghetti O's)	Day 15	Canned Fruit
Day 4	Pasta	Day 16	Cereal
Day 5	Soaps (shower, hand, hair)	Day 17	Powdered milk
Day 6	Canned meat	Day 18	Instant Mashed potato
Day 7	Baking products (bisquick, flour, sugar)	Day 19	Toothpaste & brushes
Day 8	Small Instant coffee	Day 20	Mens & womens deodorant
Day 9	Pasta Sauce	Day 21	Soups
Day 10	Stuffing Mix	Day 22	Instant flavored rice/noodles
Day 11	Canned vegetables	Day 23	Pudding cups/jello
Day 12	Shaving items (male/female), combs		

*Day 24 Baby food, diaper packs, wipes for babies
to celebrate the birth of The Christ Child



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 will increase to \$75.00 beginning January 2025.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers
Lectors
Acolytes
Welcome team
Camera Operator

Rose Montgomery
Val Lager
Ava Rupp
Sophia & Elijah Holt
Nick Wranich

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
Colin Toy
Rebecca Veith
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.

GRACE
happens



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Kittanning, PA