

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

Home: 724-548-5512

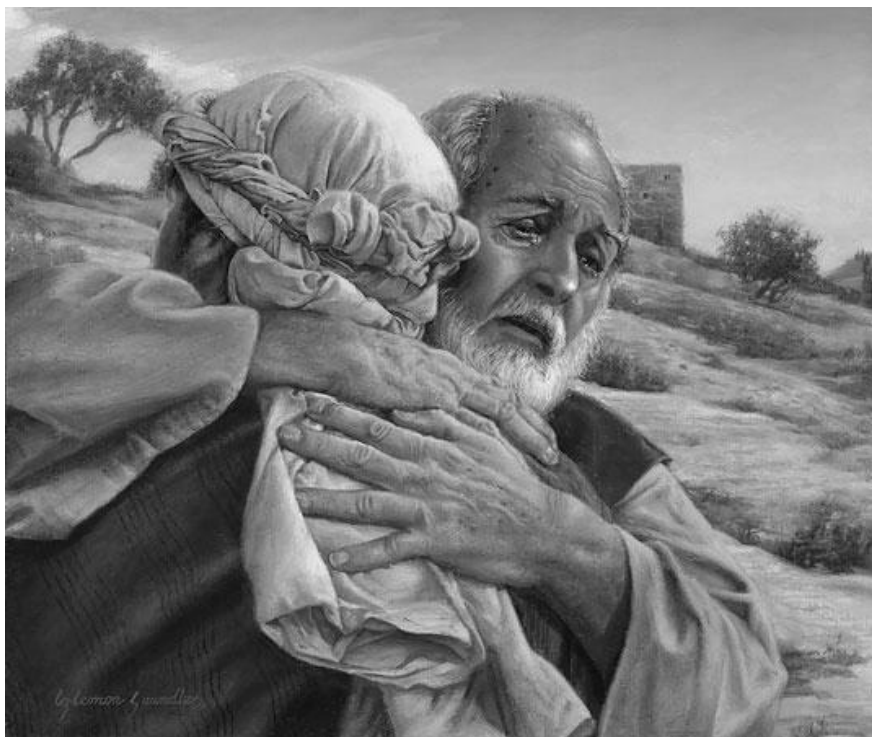
Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

March 30, 2025

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent**. 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:

Bless us, O Lord, with a reverent sense of Your presence so that we may be still and adore You; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE*"Second Benedictus"**Rowley****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.

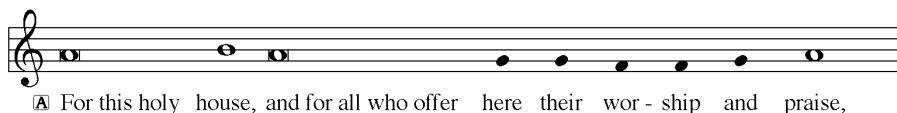
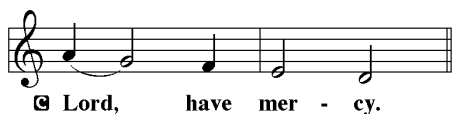
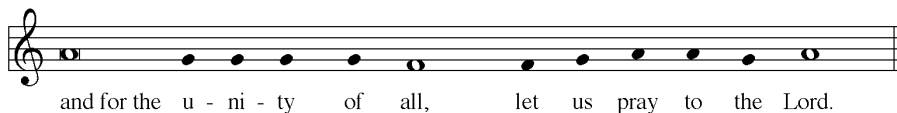
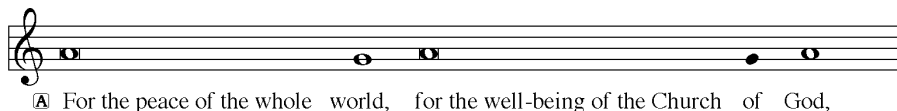
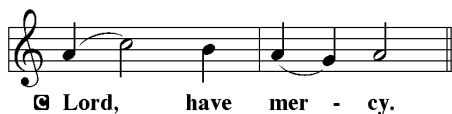
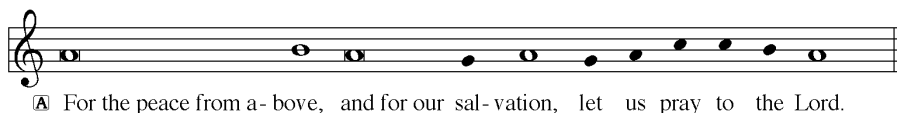
C Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**LBW 499****GREETING**

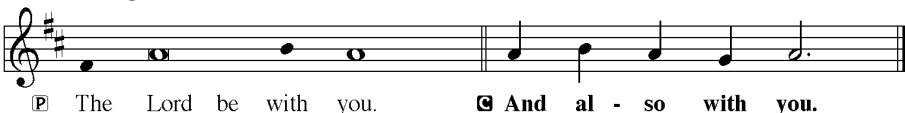
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

God of all mercy, by Your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; 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:

Joshua 5:9–12

A The First Lesson is from the fifth chapter of Joshua.

⁹ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so, the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

Psalms 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴For Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to You,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**⁶I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then You forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to You in time of
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**⁸You are my hiding-place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

⁹"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

**¹⁰Do not be like horse or mule, which have no
understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

¹¹Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

**¹²Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

SECOND LESSON:

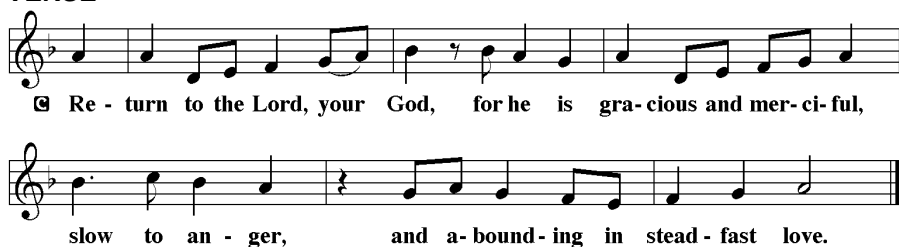
2 Corinthians 5:16–21

A The Second Lesson is from the fifth chapter of Second Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A Here ends the reading.

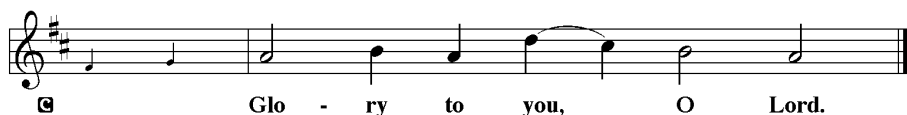
*VERSE



*GOSPEL:

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.

² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the

pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN**

"What Wondrous Love is This"

LBW 385

SERMON

DON'T BE STUPID

***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**

A For the Church, the world, and our poor sinful selves, let us pray to our Lord, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

A brief silence

Dearest Father, thank you for forgiving, welcoming, and restoring us, even when we squander your gifts and turn away from you! Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who brings us "to our right minds" and helps us repent. Thank you for your Son, who guides us to your embrace. He gives his Body and Blood as your homecoming feast, clothes us with his own righteousness and places the signet-ring of his Sonship upon our hand. We give you thanks, Father, not as we ought, but as we are able.

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

***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

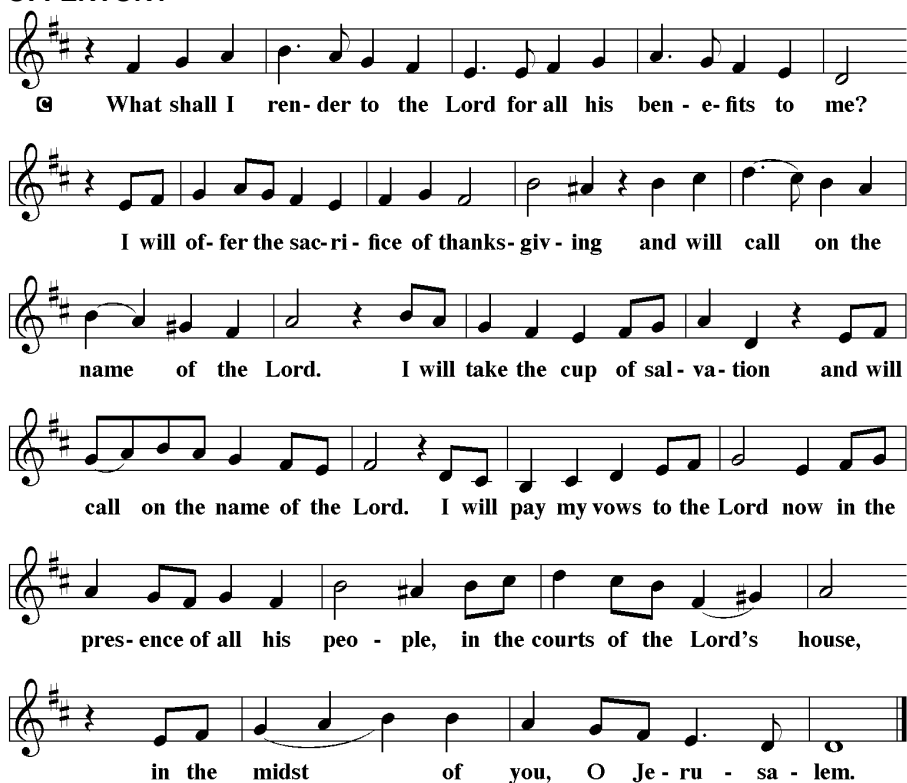
C And also with you.

ANTHEM

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. Pethel

*OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?

I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

pres-ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

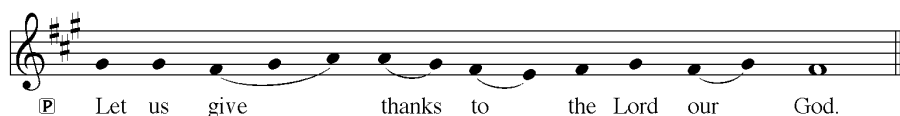
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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.



* PREFACE

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. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

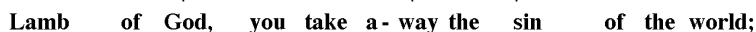
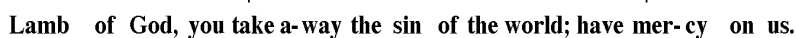
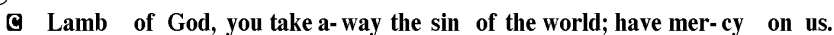
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

**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**



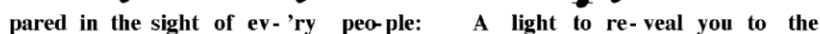
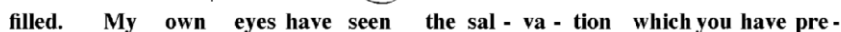
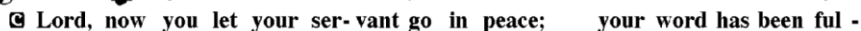
LBW 203, 222, WOV 660, 740 (8x)

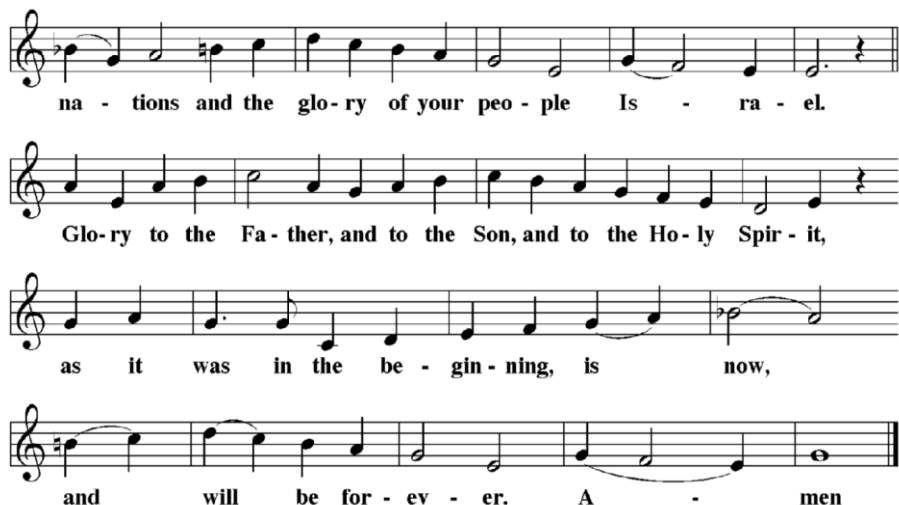
*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present
In the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.*

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.

***CANTICLE**





*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.



CLOSING HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LBW 482

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

Young

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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.

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.

Wednesday Evening Pastors’ Study:
Adult Catechism, 7:00 pm

This review is good for those who are preparing to join the congregation as an adult, for adult baptism or for those who just want to brush up on their catechism.

March 33th The Sacraments, Confession
March 40th Lutheran History/Theology/Liturgy

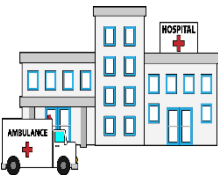


KMA Community Lenten Worship Services Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm

Apr. 1	St. Luke’s U.C.C., 333 N McKean St.	Rev. Carl Johnson
Apr. 8	Salvation Army, 205 S Jefferson St	Rev. Edward Walters

KMA Lenten Luncheons Schedule
Wednesdays @ 12:00 p.m.

Apr. 2	First Baptist, 334 Arch St.	Rev. Jeffrey Smith
Apr. 9	St. Mary’s Catholic, 101 W High St	Father Eric Dinga



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.

Passover Seder

Friday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The Arnie Moss Family will host a Passover Seder at 6:00 pm on Friday April 11th at First Baptist, 334 Arch Street, Kittanning, PA, as part of our Lenten Learning. A free will donation will be taken the night of the Seder.



THERE ARE 125 SPOTS: FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED.

Put this flier in the offering plate.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____



Women's Banquet

Sunday - April 06, 2025 *After Service / 12:30 PM

“She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future”.

Proverbs 31:25

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship,
good food and *a little name calling* !

MENU:

We will be having grilled chicken, scalloped potato & a vegetable. Apple pie with ice cream for dessert.
Lemonade, hot tea, coffee available

Return this flier to the church office or in the offering plate with an envelope marked: Ladies Banquet by **March 30th** **Cost is \$8.00/each**
Ages 10 and under free.

- Name: _____
- Number attending: _____ adults _____ children 10 and under
- Total enclosed \$ _____ * Food allergy information:



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>

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

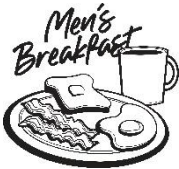
www.stjohnskittanning.org

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



Lenten Men's Prayer Breakfasts

**Saturday, April 5, 12, 19
at 8:00 a.m.**



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

Youth Group

SUNDAY APRIL 6th: WOMEN'S BANQUET
GIRLS, BRING YOUR MOMS & GRANDMAS!

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH: Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm
Lent Bible Study and Game Night!

FRIDAY APRIL 18TH: YOUTH GROUP TO HIDE EASTER EGGS
10AM

SUNDAY APRIL 27TH: NO YOUTH GROUP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Youth Sunday May 18th
Grad Sunday June 1st

**IN-TENTS CAMP DATES
FOR SUMMER 2025!**

JULY 14-18 YOUTH CAMP!
JULY 21-23 KIDS CAMP!

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Men's Banquet
Tuesday 4/1	7:00 p.m.	KMA Lenten Worship Series @ St. Luke's United Church of Christ
Wednesday 4/2	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	12:00	KMA Luncheon
	5:30 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 4/3	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Saturday 4/5	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 4/6	8:30 a.m.	Rock of Our Salvation: Communion
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	12:30 p.m.	Women's Banquet

Mark Your Calendars

March 30	Men's Banquet
April 6	Women's Banquet
April 20	Easter
May 4	Spring Concert
May 18	Youth Sunday
June 1	Grad Sunday
June 8	Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 22	Over 80 Banquet



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lectors
Comm Assistants
Acolytes
Welcome Teams
Camera Operator

Cheryl Mechling
Roger Mechling
Susan Neal & Kay Thorell
Ella Fennell
The Farahs
Keith Livengood

STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
TBA
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Landon Kirkpatrick's 6th birthday by Denny & Patty Kirkpatrick.

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