

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051

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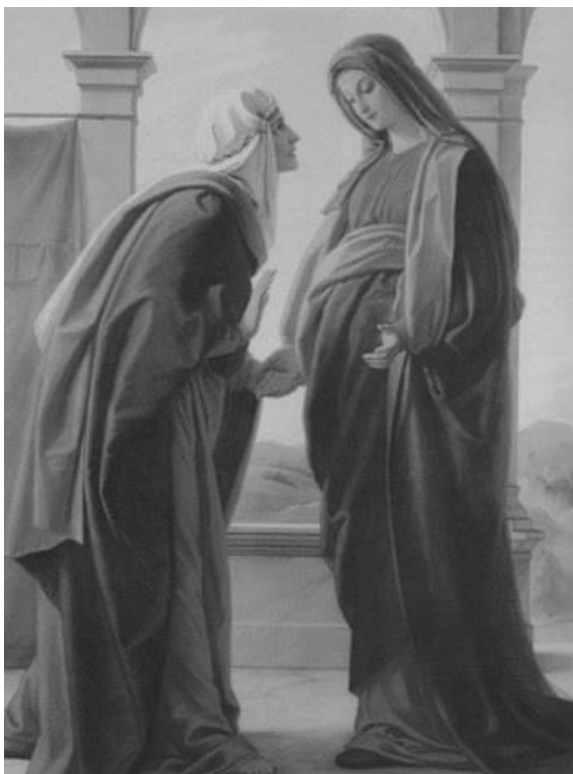
Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 22, 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 **Fourth 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

“Veni Emmanuel”

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

OPENING HYMN

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

LBW 31

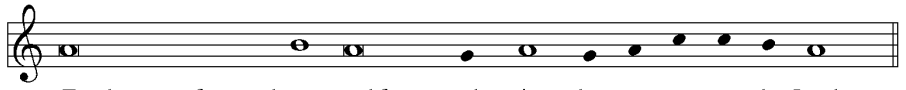
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

*KYRIE



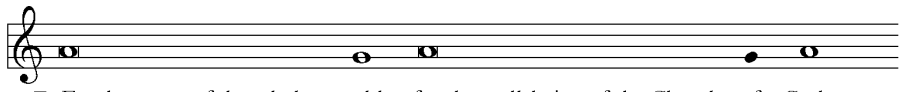
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



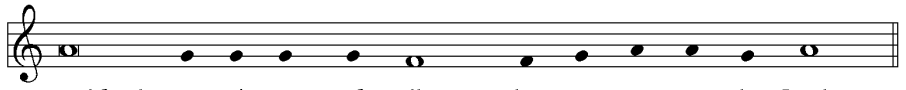
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



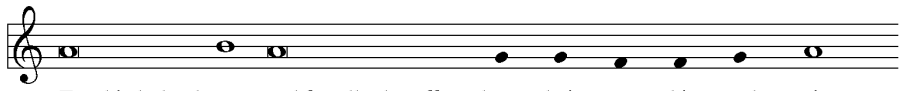
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of Your birth, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

FIRST LESSON:

MICAH 5:2-5A

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

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces,
then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men.

A Here ends the reading.

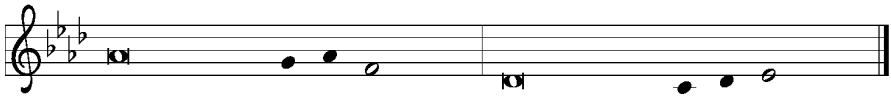
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LBW 34, v. 1-4

ADVENT READING

CANTICLE

LUKE 1:47-55



My soul magni- | fies the LORD,*
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
⁴⁸for He has | looked with favor*
on the lowliness | of His servant.

Surely, from now on all | generations*
will | call me blessed;
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great | things for me,*
and holy | is His name. R

⁵⁰His mercy is for | those who fear Him*
from generation to | generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength | with His arm,*
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts | of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful | from their thrones,*
and lifted | up the lowly;
⁵³He has filled the hungry | with good things,*
and sent the rich | away empty. R

⁵⁴He has helped His | servant Israel,*
in remembrance | of His mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise He made | to our ancestors,*
to Abraham and to His descen- | dants forever. R

SECOND LESSON:

HEBREWS 10:5-10

A The Second Lesson is from the tenth chapter of Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A Here ends the reading.

***VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL:

LUKE 1:39-55

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in

my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

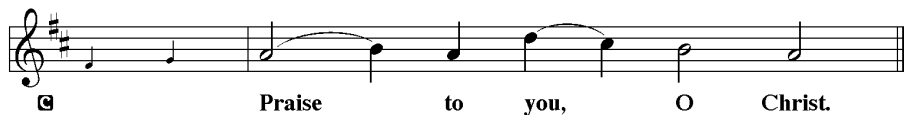
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

LBW 29

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

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

Father, our hearts yearn for your peace, justice, mercy, and righteousness. Shine on our broken world and heal our sad divisions. Come quickly to save and heal us! Let us gaze upon the face of Jesus, and see in Him your mercy, salvation, and blessing.

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

ANTHEM

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

Kingsford

*OFFERTORY



☐ 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.

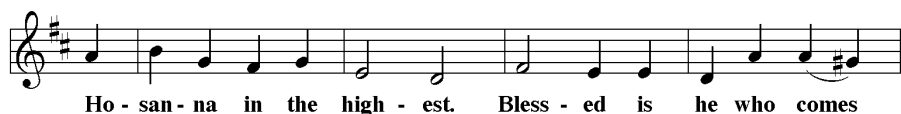
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



* 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, almighty and ever living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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**

*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**



C 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...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.



C A - men

CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LBW 39

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"In Dolci Jubilo"

Bach

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.

Today: Kids Christmas Pageant

“A CAPITAL CHRISTMAS!”

10:00 a.m.

(Dress Rehearsal at 9:15)

Sanctuary Decorating

After Church, Today, December 22nd

YOUTH LOCK IN

**Friday Jan. 3rd 8:00pm-
Saturday Jan. 4th 5:00am**

**Bowling, Pizza,
Movies,
Gross Games,
Prizes,**

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today	9:15 a.m.	Pageant Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	After worship	Decorating
Tuesday 12/24	7:00 p.m.	Worship: Communion
	11:00 p.m.	Worship: Communion
Thursday 12/25		Merry Christmas
Sunday 12/29	8:30 a.m.	Rock of our Salvation
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion

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.**



Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

You can now make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for “GivePlus Church” 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. Make one-time or recurring donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.
3. Log in or donate as a guest.
4. Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

To give through the app, search your phone’s app store for “GivePlus Mobile” or contact the church office.

To give from your personal computer go to:
<https://secure.myvanco.com>

**“Give according to your income,
lest God make your income
according to your giving.”**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister	Sara Shafer
Lector	Melissa Venesky
Communion	Susan Barto, Charlie Bleakney Marlee and Julie Smith
Acolytes	Ella Fennell, Anna Venesky Delaney Smith, Mitchell Wranich
Welcome team	Emily Bouch and Stella Venesky
Camera Operator	Robert John

STAFF MEMBERS

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



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA