

# St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

## January 12, 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 **Baptism of Our Lord**. 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:*

*Glorious God, as You poured out Your Holy Spirit out upon Jesus at the river Jordan, so pour Your Holy Spirit upon those who are gathered here that the words on our lips and the songs in our hearts might reflect gratitude and devotion to You for all we hear and see of Your amazing grace and constant love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*"Andante"*

*Merkel*

**\*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**

*"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" LBW 76*

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

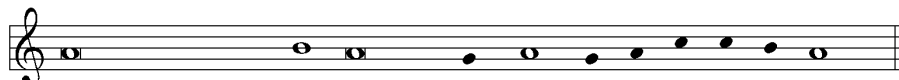
**C And also with you.**

\*Those who are able, please stand

## \*KYRIE



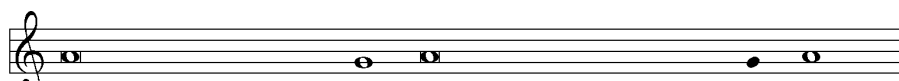
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



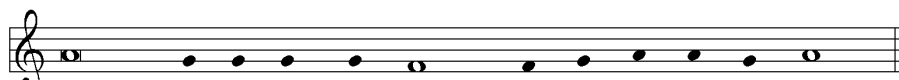
**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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



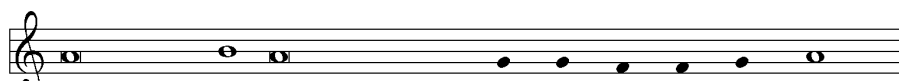
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.



☩ 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,

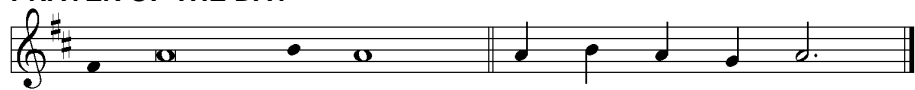


you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



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

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our LORD, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

## FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 43:1-7

**A** The First Lesson is from the forty-third chapter of Isaiah.

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, Give up,  
and to the south, Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the end of the earth,

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

**A** Here ends the reading.

## PSALM

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.**

<sup>9</sup>And in the temple of the LORD  
all are crying, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD shall give strength to his people;  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## SECOND LESSON

ACTS 8:14-17

**A** The second lesson is from the eighth chapter of Acts.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

**A** Here ends the reading.

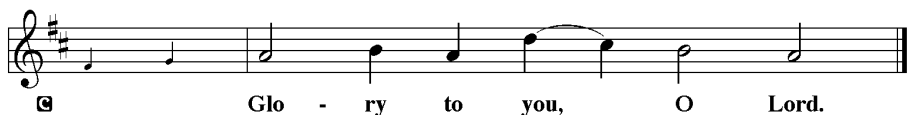
### \*VERSE



### \*GOSPEL

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

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

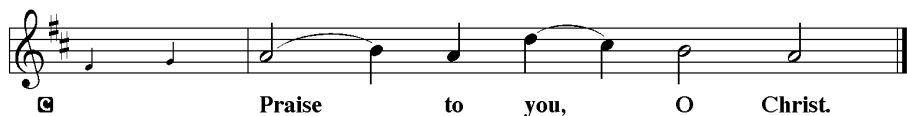


<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing

fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”* *LBW 29*

**SERMON** “TRINITY”

### **\*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**

**ANTHEM** *“Walkin' to Jordan”* *Althouse*

### **\*OFFERTORY**



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** Let us draw near to the Throne of Grace, offering prayer and supplication on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

*A brief silence*

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us a glimpse into the mystery of the Trinity in the Baptism of your beloved Son. Thank you for uniting us to him, in the power of the heaven-descended Dove, for naming us your beloved children, in our own Baptism. Give us grace to live lives well-pleasing to you. Let all our thoughts, words, and deeds cry "Glory!"

**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

**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

### \*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

### CLOSING HYMN

*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

*LBW 87*

### \*DISMISSAL

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

*"March"*

*Guilmant*



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.

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## Women's Bible Study

will return at the King's restaurant on **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Any questions, please contact Rose Montgomery at [rosetrix38@comcast.net](mailto:rosetrix38@comcast.net). All are welcome!



# SPARK TIME CHANGE

January 21<sup>st</sup> 2025



**5:15-6:30pm**

**Preschool-6th Grade**

**COST: FREE!**

Dinner, Bible Story,

Winter Games, Fun, Crafts and More!

Parents, stay or run some errands.

**NEXT Spark Date: Feb. 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)**





## **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>

Scan the QR code for St. John's Lutheran Church:

**Options Include:** *Local Expenses, Improvement Fund, Benevolence, Capital Appeal, Evangelism, Sunday School, Youth, World Hunger, Katie's Cupboard and Other.* **When choosing "Other" please indicate which fund you are contributing to. Thank you for supporting your church.**



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

## ***Annual Congregational Meeting***

**Scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Our annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will review the Bulletin of Reports, approve a budget for 2025 and elect an endowment trustee.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

|                       |                  |                                |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Today 1/12</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                        |
|                       | Noon             | Finance Committee Mtg          |
|                       | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Youth Group                    |
| <b>Monday 1/13</b>    | 7:00 p.m.        | Council                        |
| <b>Wednesday 1/15</b> | 9:30 a.m.        | Children's Hour                |
|                       | 5:30 p.m.        | New Bells                      |
|                       | 6:30 p.m.        | Senior Bells                   |
|                       | 7:00 p.m.        | Bible Study                    |
|                       | 7:30 p.m.        | Senior Choir                   |
| <b>Thursday 1/16</b>  | 9:30 a.m.        | Children's Hour                |
|                       | Noon             | Womens Study at Kings          |
|                       | 2:45 p.m.        | Catechism                      |
|                       | 7:00 p.m.        | Catechism                      |
| <b>Saturday 1/18</b>  | 8:00 a.m.        | Men's Prayer Breakfast         |
| <b>Sunday 1/19</b>    | 9:45 a.m.        | Sunday School                  |
|                       | 10:00 a.m.       | Senior Choir                   |
|                       | 11:00 a.m.       | Worship: Communion             |

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



**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.**



### January Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.**

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

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Assisting Ministers  | John Swanson (E)<br>Nancy Pierce (L)                           |
| Lectors              | Brendan Swanson (E)<br>Val Lager (L)                           |
| Communion Assistants | Jamie and Noelle Smoyer (E)                                    |
| Welcome Team         | Tammy Fleeger, Marve Gaiser (E)<br>Sue Neal & Ella Fennell (L) |
| Acolytes             | Ava Rupp (E)<br>Kendall Bailey (L)                             |
| Camera Operator      | Nick Wranich (E)<br>Keith Livengood (L)                        |

## 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*



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Kittanning, PA