

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

**February 23, 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 **Seventh 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:*

*O God, let Your Light and Your salvation come to us in all of its fullness and brightness, so that Christ may be seen and heard and touched by us and in us. Amen*

**PRELUDE***"Houston"**Wold***\*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**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* LBW 527

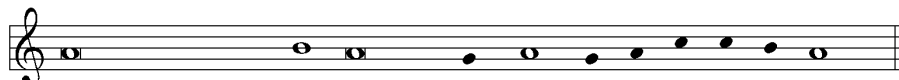
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE



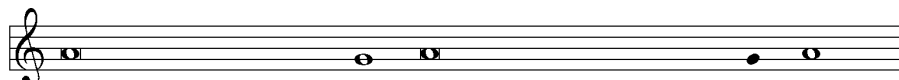
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord,    have mer - cy.



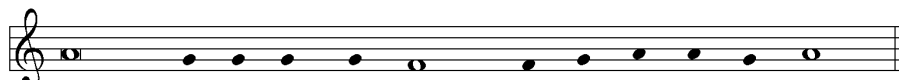
Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord,    have mer - cy.



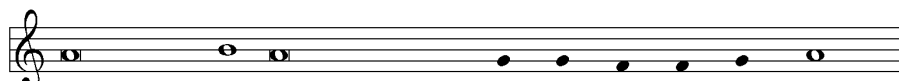
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord,    have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord,    have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.    Ⓞ A -            men

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



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



**FIRST LESSON:****GENESIS 45:3-11, 15**

**A** The First Lesson is from the forty-fifth chapter of Genesis.

<sup>3</sup>And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

<sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

<sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**A** Here ends the reading.

**PSALM:****Psalms 37:1-12, 41-42**

<sup>1</sup>Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**<sup>2</sup>For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**<sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD,  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to pass.

**<sup>6</sup>He will make your righteousness as clear as the light  
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.

**<sup>8</sup>Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

<sup>9</sup>Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

<sup>10</sup>**For evildoers shall be cut off,**

**but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land. R**

<sup>11</sup>In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

<sup>12</sup>**But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

<sup>41</sup>But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

<sup>42</sup>**The LORD will help them and rescue them;  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.**

## **SECOND LESSON:**

## **1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

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

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**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 6:27-38**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

<sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

<sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**\*HYMN**

*“Chief of the Sinners Though I Be”*

LBW 306

**SERMON**

*“Ball and Chain”*

**\*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**

*“Let Them See Christ in Me”*  
*Gene Hughes, Soloist*

*arr. Hayes*

**\*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** 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*

Loving Father, forgiveness is the hardest thing we ever do - but refusing to  
forgive is worse. Thank you for the forgiveness that you have given us in  
Jesus. Let it sink in and work deep within us. Although it is hard, teach us how  
to forgive, and to ask for forgiveness. Restore us to yourself, and to those who  
are separated from us, whether by their sins or by our own sin.

**A** Lord in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.





# 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			

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

<b>Sunday 2/23</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	Noon	Habitat Luncheon
	2:30 p.m.	Family Ice Skating
<b>Monday 2/24</b>	6:00 p.m.	Mutual Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Worship
<b>Wednesday 2/26</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	P.J.'s Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
<b>Thursday 2/27</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
<b>Sunday 3/2</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group

### Mark your calendars:

Easter Egg Hunt: April 19<sup>th</sup>  
from 12 to 1:00pm



### Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

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

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."**

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Welcome team  
Camera Operator

Keith Livengood  
Linda Charley  
Mitchell Wranich  
The Smith Family  
Elizabeth John

## 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 celebration of Mary Jane Dawson's birthday.

## 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