

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street
Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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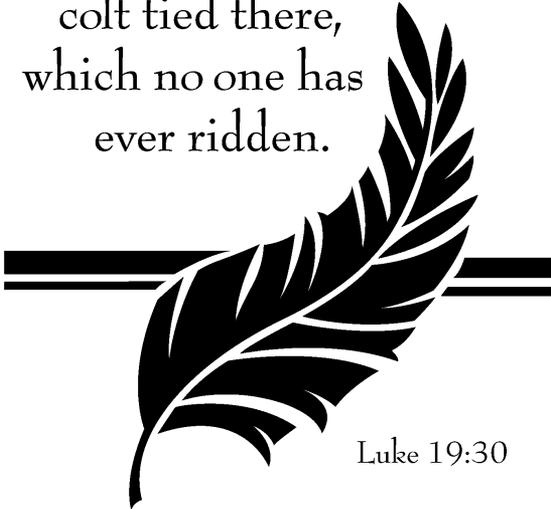
Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

April 5, 2020
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

Go to the village
ahead of you,
and as you enter it,
you will find a
colt tied there,
which no one has
ever ridden.



Luke 19:30

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

Our Father, as we behold Your Son and our Savior in His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we pray that the honor we pay to Him may be that of the complete giving of ourselves to Him in glad and willing obedience. Amen.

PRELUDE**CHILDREN'S SERMON*****DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALMS**

1 O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation;
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.

Refrain: Join all and sing, his name declare
Let ev'ry voice resound with joyous acclamation!
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!
Bless him who cometh to bring us salvation.

2 His word goes forth, and peoples by its might.
Freedom regain once more from degradation;
Humanity doth give to each his right
While those in darkness are restored to light. *(Refrain)*

3 Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem.
Of all thy sons sing full emancipation;
Thro' boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore. *(Refrain)*

***PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting; through You Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

A After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this,

"The Lord needs it." So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P We praise and thank You, O God, for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in His path.

We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail Him as our Lord and King and follow Him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *All Glory, Laud & Honor*

LBW 108

***GREETING**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon Him and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in His obedience to Your will and in the glorious victory of His resurrection; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 50:4–9

A The First Lesson is from the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah.

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷ But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

Psalms 31:9–16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I have become a reproach to all my enemies and
even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

**¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving kindness save me."**

SECOND LESSON:

Philippians 2:5–11

A The Second Lesson is from the second chapter of Philippians.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with
God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of
a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in
human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of
death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at
the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and
under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

A Here ends the reading.

*LENTEN VERSE

☐ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

Insert

(Please remain seated. The congregation participates where indicated.)

☐ Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

*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.

*HYMN

"The Royal Banners Forward Go"

LBW 124

SERMON

*THE PRAYERS

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

We pray that the same mind be in Your church as was in Christ Jesus; that we continue to bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
LORD, in Your mercy,
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 Your son, 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

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

LBW 121

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New virus inspired group: **The Caring Team** is calling through the church directory to find out who needs help and who can provide help. If you need help let them or the office know. One of the ways of caring during this virus is to provide soup. If you would like a quart of soup, our Caring Team cooks will provide you with a quart or two. Just call the office @ 724-548-2015 by Wednesday. Pick-up is drive thru style in the alley on Friday, April 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Don't panic. Trust. God remains faithful!

Healing Service, Tuesday April 7th

As part of Holy Week, on Tuesday, April 7th, St. John's will have a healing service at 7:00 p.m. Healing services are a special time to come for prayer and be anointed for healing. Come for yourself or to pray for others—this is a special opportunity to focus on God's healing power.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

The three holiest days of the church year begin with Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00 p.m. When we explore the events of the Last Supper—Christ's giving of the great commandment and His institution of the Lord's Supper.

Come enter into Christ's journey through the Triduum.

Tenebrae Service:

Will be held Friday, April 10th, at 7:00 p.m. The Passion narrative according to St. John, using the symbolic power of light and darkness. Please join us for a most moving and meaningful service consisting of music, lessons, prayers, light and the cross.

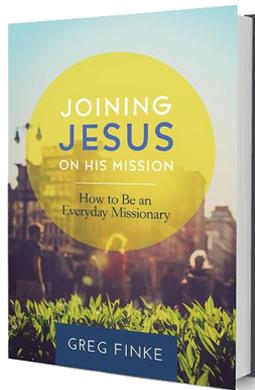


On Sunday, April 12th, we will celebrate the **Festival of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ** at 11:00 a.m.

Please plan to attend our joyful Easter celebration!

The church office will be closed

Good Friday, April 10th. The office will reopen
Monday, April 13th.



2020 Lenten Schedule

"Joining Jesus on His Mission" Book

"Joining Jesus on His Mission" is a simple, powerful, practical book that will move you and your people from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Available in paperback as well as various e-book formats!

*"Jesus is the vaccine we need,
And it comes in
the form of the cross."*

—Bishop Selbo



Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

You can now make a contribution to St. John's 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today 4/5	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday 4/6	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 4/7	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Healing Service: Communion
Wednesday 4/8	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Thursday 4/9	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Worship
Friday 4/10	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Worship: Tenebrae
Saturday 4/11	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 4/12	11:00 a.m.	Festival Worship

1 HOW DID YOU **SEE** GOD AT WORK
IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

2 WHAT HAS GOD BEEN
TEACHING YOU IN **HIS WORD**?

3 WHAT KIND OF **CONVERSATIONS** ARE
YOU HAVING WITH PRE-CHRISTIANS?

4 WHAT GOOD CAN WE **DO**
AROUND HERE?

5 HOW CAN WE HELP
YOU IN **PRAYER**?

dwelling 1:14
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you ALL for your support and prayers!

Wow, do I feel loved and cared for! Thank you for your prayers, cards, and much more. This might sound crazy, in this difficult time, but **... I am so happy to be back to work!!...** Quarantined or not. This entire situation is giving me a new perspective on everything.

Sitting at home for many weeks, feeling down and out at times, I reflected on this verse from Jeremiah 17:7-8, from the ESV version... which absolutely speaks to this entire situation... "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord whose trust IS the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

That statement... Whose trust IS the Lord.... Means to me, that we can totally surrender and lay at the foot of the cross... our fears, our anxieties, hopelessness, hurts, exhaustion, and frustrations... and **completely rest** that Jesus is taking care of us. He is strong when we are weak, He is Truth when we are surrounded by uncertainty, He is Peace in the worst storm. He is The Word, we can cling to in the darkest hour.

That we are truly FREE, because OUR GOD is on our side! HE IS ALWAYS GOOD. Our God frees us from the inside out. Jesus has washed away our sin, sickness, despair. He has defeated the power of the devil, and He has victoriously defeated death. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom!

With Gratitude,

Julie Smith

Sitting at home? Not much to do?

Something to do at home.... If you have access to a **smart phone**, I recommend the YouVersion Bible App, and you can pick a devotional plan to do at home. I recently did one called "Be Still and Know." There are plans for every topic, age, and theme.



Some **songs** to check out.... An Earworm is a silly word that describes a *song that gets stuck in your head*... I have had two "earworms" throughout these past couple weeks that have really helped me... Take a listen on Youtube, if you can look these up... One of the songs that has really helped me was our AWESOME St. John's Choir specialty.... By Robert Ray... *He Never Failed Me Yet*. I was shouting out this song at home the other day. The next one is *I Know*, By Big Daddy Weave. Both of them are so encouraging.



**St. John's
Family
Bible Trivia
Online Fun!**

KAHOOT is an educational game website, usually used by teachers... however.... It's lots of fun for families too! I will be contacting families, via text and email. If I do not have your email, please forward your info to me... smithjulie33@yahoo.com . There is a family Bible Trivia competition game I am creating and more to follow!!

Yes! We can still have Youth Group from home!



**YOUTH
GROUP**

We'll be doing a Zoom meeting, for up to 5 or 6 people at time...
For the following time frames on Sunday April 5th
Meeting One: 6-6:30 Meeting Two: 7-7:30

We can add more, as needed, either another time, or people on zoom.
I'll contact you with info, meeting code.

Please let me know if
you have any questions. **We will adjust as we go!**

YOUTH GROUP... IN Preparation for Sunday...

#1 Find something Gross in your fridge.
(Sorry Parents & no judging here)

#2 If you need a practice meeting run, let me know, we'll set one up

A decorative border of various Easter eggs with different patterns like hearts, zig-zags, and floral designs.

Easter Egg Hunt

...at Home...

Hey Kids! Your Easter Packet will arrive next week.
Inside you'll find a special game and a craft,
some activities you can do at home!
God is with us all the time, even if we are afraid!

Memorize the
Verse of the Week

**For I am the LORD, your God, who takes
hold of your right hand and says to you,
Do not fear, I will help you.**



-Isaiah 41:13-

Children's Hour will begin

Thursday April 9th

Via video class.

Miss Julie will be contacting
families to let them know how to join.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lector
Ushers
Camera Operator

Nancy Pierce
Cheryl Mechling
Blair & Mary Dawson, Bill & Jarrod Olinger
Bill Bouch

STAFF MEMBERS

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

Julie Smith
Christine Lettrich
Mike Craft
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer



The flowers on the altar this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of our first grandson, Landon Kirkpatrick's first 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.