

January 2013

# St. John Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement

*St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ. We gather faithfully in His name to worship and praise Him; and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.*

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## My sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America uses a set of readings, often referred to as the lectionary. These readings focus on one of the three synoptic gospels (called synoptic because they tell the story of Jesus following the same general story or synopsis). Each year of our Christian life together we begin in the preparation of Advent, following that with the joy of Christmas. Epiphany – the season of light shows us the beginnings of Jesus ministry before we enter into the wilderness of Lent.

The flow of lessons allows us to follow with Jesus and his disciples on their journeys through Galilee and Judea, ultimately to Jerusalem. Over the course of the year however, we mostly follow Jesus in one of Matthew, Mark or Luke.

Everyone has a favorite gospel – for some the fulfillment of the law in Matthew, the immediacy

of Mark or the intimacy of John. This year we are following Luke. And one thing that is emphasized more in Luke than any other gospel, is Jesus' ministry to the least and lonely. From the outset where an angel comes to offer a word of hope to an old priest without a son, to a blind man in the temple, to a collaborator with Roman rule (Zacchaeus), to even the thief on the cross, Jesus reaches out to those that are overlooked by everyone else.

Maybe you feel like one of the lost, the least or the lonely. Perhaps you feel tired and weary, like Anna or Simeon and long "for my eyes [to see] your salvation" (Luke 2:30) – perhaps you are holding on and feel overlooked as those two august persons did. Maybe you feel the sting of sharp words and a gulf between you and other people, like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:10). Maybe you feel ill and want Jesus to have mercy

on you, such as he did on any of the ten lepers of Luke 17:11 – 19.

Luke's gospel reminds us that the gospel has a home for everyone that we are all a part of God's family and that we are all welcome in God's family. This is a gospel that reminds us that Jesus didn't just reach out for the rich or the powerful, but that he wanted everyone to be a part of his family.

Whatever you might be struggling with, whatever fears, doubts or anxieties might be in your life, whatever sickness that you are dealing with, whatever separation you are feeling, we are reminded in Luke's gospel of Jesus drawing all into his embrace.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark Bringman

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VESTRY  
2013

## Congregational Meeting minutes -December 2nd

Voting Members Present: 58 at the 8:00 a.m. service. The meeting was conducted by Laurie Passione. At the 10:30 a.m. service, the meeting was conducted by Sally Foster. At the meeting, following both services, we solicited names for nominations for vestry, no names were added, and the vestry roll was affirmed by acclamation

**President:** Denise Hager; **Vice-President:** Keith Cardinal; **Secretary:** Erin Weaver; **Treasurer:** Jan Leikauf; **Financial Secretary:** Carolyn Jarrett

**Deacons:** Cindy Knauff, Chair; Denise Hager, Patti Smith, Erin Weaver, Ruth Ann Tully, Frieda Carbo, Sandy Hill

**Elders:** Kim Richards, Chair; Laurie Passione, Sherry Davidson, Jim Hopson, Keith Cardinal, Martha Ward, Jim Marshall

**Trustees:** Jamie Weaver, Chair; Jim Hager; Larry Werner, Dave Knauff, Bob Davidson, Nick Brower, John Tully

## LWR Quilt Campaign – Will you help ?

From families in Haiti to hospitals in Palestine and Sierra Leone to the quilting room of Lutheran churches across the U.S., LWR Mission Quilts connect people to God's call to love and care for one another.

To a person receiving a quilt, the message is clear—you are not alone, you are not forgotten, someone cares for you.

For those who make quilts, they represent community and sharing and love.

Lutheran World Relief has set a challenge of **500,000 quilts for the year 2013.**

**Will you help??** *If you have never quilted before it is not a problem. We'll teach you.* Our quilting group meets on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 until 8:30. Other ways to help would be to donate fabric (maybe you used to sew and have some in a box somewhere) or old blankets (we can use those for batting between layers).

Please consider joining us in this effort. For questions and more information, please contact Cindy Knauff at 724-473-1198 or email her at [valenciaknauff@yahoo.com](mailto:valenciaknauff@yahoo.com)

## Congregational Meeting and One Service January 27th - 10:00 a.m. with meeting following

Our annual congregational meeting to approve the budget, our congregational reports, pray together for guidance from the Holy Spirit and to vision together where God is calling us is on January 27th following a 10:00 a.m. service.

As sisters and brothers in the body of Christ, it is important that you gather with us to help us vision together how we are being called to serve God, each other, our community and our world through St. John Lutheran Church. Please pick up annual reports before the meeting and join us as the Holy Spirit guides us boldly into 2013!

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## Medical Lending Closet

The Valencia Presbyterian Church Medical Lending Closet has become a vital ministry to the surrounding community, providing much needed medical equipment to those in need. Medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs, bedside commodes, even electric scooters and lift chairs are lent out to members of the community at no charge (although donations are accepted). All that is required is that the equipment be returned in working condition when it is no longer needed.



To keep this ministry running, we rely greatly on the community for donations of equipment. However, lately the demand has been greater than the supply. We would greatly appreciate any donations of gently used medical equipment – **especially needed are wheelchairs**. Tax donation forms are available upon request. Please contact the church office at **724-625-2002** for more information.

Thank you and may God bless!

## ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES

Make 2013 the year you resolve to make your marriage a more romantic, intimate, joy-filled relationship! For over 30 years Lutheran Marriage Encounter has been enriching and revitalizing marriages by presenting Weekends.

*Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM* and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES whether you are newlyweds or have been married upwards of 50 years.

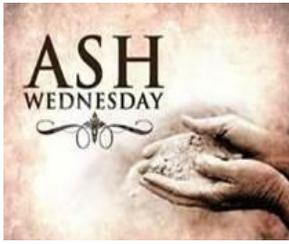
Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. The 2013 Weekends are:

- **March 15-17, 2013** at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA (peaceful resort nestled within 1500 wooded acres)
- **April 26-28, 2013** at the Conference Center in Lutheran Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown, PA (a motel-style retreat center located in the Laurel Highlands featuring the serenity of a lovely rural setting)
- **September 13-15, 2013** at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA (a 1917 Manor with a lovely, modern retreat center in the Allegheny National Forest -- 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA)
- **October 11-13, 2013** at Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA (in the beautiful Pocono Mountains -- 2 hours north of Philadelphia, just off of Interstate 80)

Registrations are limited, so **sign up today** to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice. Simply go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and register using your credit card, or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

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GodLoves  
MARRIAGE



## Ash Wednesday services

### February 13th at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal water of Easter. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and

resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty but what seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

We invite you to join us on our Lenten pilgrimage to the cross, to be reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, to be reminded that we are renewed through the power of Christ's death and resurrection.

## Doughnuts and the Burning of Palms

### February 12th - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. @ St. John

In many European cultures, there is a tradition on Mardi Gras (literally fat Tuesday) to use the fat or lard in one's pantry before the fasting of Lent. In the German heritage of Pastor Mark, this meant making Fasnachts (doughnuts). You're invited to join Pastor Mark as he

makes doughnuts during this period of time. We will also be burning the palms from Palm Sunday last year to prepare the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thus this will be an evening of doughnuts, fun stories and preparation for our Lenten Journey.

## MOVIE NIGHTS

### The Gospel of John (movie)

#### January 6th after late church

On January 6th we will be watching The Gospel of John at the parsonage after late church. This movie is a re-enactment of Jesus' life as depicted in the work of the evangelist. The text of the movie comes directly from the gospel itself - making it accurate. This is a great way to get a feel for the life of Christ in one go. There will be popcorn, coffee and hot tea. If you would like food, either bring a lunch or we will order a lunch.

### Movie Night

#### January 12th 4:30 - 7:30

Our movie nights are designed to be fun for the whole family and all ages. We will be watching Pixar's *Brave* for this one and we hope that you will join us. We will be gathering, talking about themes of the movie and ordering pizza. This is a great event to invite friends to.



## Mars Ministerium Marriage seminar February 8-9, 2013

The Mars Ministerium is hosting a marriage seminar at the Dutilh United Methodist Church, Mars Campus. It will host *Lifelong Love Affair*, a live seminar simulcast on Valentine's Day weekend (Feb. 8-9). The seminar is led by Jimmy & Karen Evans of Dallas-based ministry, Marriage Today. *Lifelong Love Affair* aims to help couples strengthen and transform marriages. According to Jimmy Evans, founder and CEO of Marriage Today, couples that attend will discover the keys to restore a broken marriage and make a good marriage even better. "Following God's plan for marriage can lead to a more intimate, passionate, and fulfilling relationship," he says. "Valentine's Day weekend is a perfect time for couples to explore how they can grow closer."

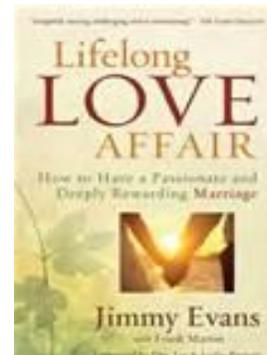
The seminar takes place over two sessions: Friday, February 8 (7–9:30 PM) and Saturday, February 9 (9 AM–noon). The sessions include the following topics:

- How To Have A Lifelong Love Affair
- Married On Purpose
- The Blessed Marriage
- The Seven Steps To Sexual Intimacy

Participants may register for the seminar by contacting the Mars Campus of Dutilh United Methodist church.

Additional questions can be answered by contacting Dutilh, Mars Campus at 724-625-1488.

Due to the topic and nature of the seminar, children **will not** be allowed to attend. Nursery care **will not** be available.



## January Birthdays



1/07 Justin Waibel  
1/08 Stephanie Ceraso  
1/08 Francis Kratz  
1/08 Jane Smith  
1/10 Margaret Meyerl  
1/11 Fred Ludolff  
1/16 Charles Olescyski  
1/21 Kathy Marshall

If you will be submitting  
an article for the  
February newsletter  
PLEASE sign up – the  
sheet is on the greeting  
area bulletin board.

Thank you !

*Newsletter deadline  
for  
February's newsletter  
articles is:*

**Monday  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

<http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>

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