

May 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.

St. John Lutheran Church
PO Box 411
420 Beaver Street
Mars PA 16046

<http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>
(724) 625 - 1830
Office email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor Mark's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

This May as we continue through the Easter season our readings are focusing on two books of the Bible. The first reading through the season of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles, which chronicles the growth of the early church.

The second reading for all of Easter is from the Revelation to John.

The Revelation to John is probably one of the least understood books of the Bible. One of our members was part of a Bible study that spent two years studying it. There is a lot of symbolism and numbers in Revelation.

But it is a basic story. It is the story of God defeating all the forces of evil: sin, death and the devil and bringing our reality to his, so that we may experience a new heaven and a new earth. It is an exciting story, perhaps one of the most blockbuster of the Bible, that reminds us of God's all conquering love.

While yes, there is a lot of symbolism and numbers, the Revelation to John is plain and clear that God's power knows no bounds, that his love is with us all the days of our life. When's the last time you read Revelation?

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mark

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Doors for the Church

First off, a thank you to everyone that has helped us to raise nearly \$7,000 for the church doors, we have done tremendously in working to renovate the church. Thank you! Secondly, the council voted to replace all three sets of doors this year due to your generous donations (initially the thought was that we might replace one or two). The new doors will cost a total of \$12,667 and we are soliciting donations to help us get closer to our goal. Any donations for the doors should be indicated as such in the memo line or on the envelope itself.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you looking for a church home?
If you are, please speak with Pastor Mark
after the service! He will be organizing
a new member class to meet later on
this spring.

Church Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 4th

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(Rain date will be Saturday, May 18th)

The trustees will be taking all volunteers
to help clean up the outside and
the inside of the church.

Come and enjoy the fellowship and time
together ☺

Please contact Jamie Weaver for questions
or information.

Olde Time Night

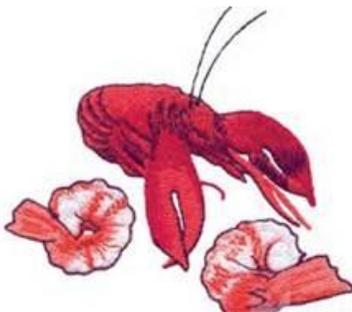
Saturday, May 4th 6:00 – 8:30



Stressed about all of the concerns of life? Then why not go
back to an easier time, a simpler time, and relax with us at
St. John on the evening of May 4th. We are going to have an
ice cream social, ‘olde’ time games (and some more modern
ones), a movie playing for the kids, popcorn for all, some
classic TV shows. It will be a fun, easy going night to spend
time with your friends from St. John and with other
congregations in the ministerium.

Men's Night Out

Tuesday, May 7th, 6:30pm - ?



The men of the church will be heading to the
Beacon Hotel for shrimp and/or crawdads on
Tuesday, May 7th. The Beacon is located at 231
Beacon Road, Renfrew, PA 16053.

If you have any questions – beyond the fact we’re
going to have delicious seafood and a goodtime,
please speak to Jamie Weaver.

What is The Walk to Jerusalem?

The Walk to Jerusalem is a 12 week walking program. It is designed to increase the physical, spiritual and emotional health of participants. Participants are exercising the physical body, exercising the spiritual body by praying and exercising the mind by learning about different locations through-out the Countries. This "imaginary" trip to Jerusalem is accomplished by individuals within the congregation logging their own walking miles each week. For individuals who do not enjoy walking, any 20 minutes worth of exercise, can count towards 1 mile. Our walk will begin June 2nd with the goal of accumulating enough miles to reach Jerusalem by August 25th.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. The distance from Mars to Jerusalem is approximately 5,953 miles of those single steps. Less mileage for crossing the Atlantic Ocean, of course; leaves about 2,350 miles. We can do this -- Together!

Many a man had taken the first step. With every additional step you enhance immensely the value of your first, growing stronger with each additional step you take. So lace up your sneakers, I encourage everyone to come along, learn a little, enjoy the wonderful outdoors, and enjoy the company of other St. Johns' members, and maybe get a little healthier in the process. Walking is the best possible exercise!



"Some people see more in a walk around the block than others see in a trip around the world"

Feel Good, Have Fun
Enjoy the Journey!
Join us for the "Kick off to
Walk to Jerusalem
on June 2nd.

Pentecost - May 19th, 2013

Pentecost, along with Easter and Christmas, is one of the holiest times of the year for the church. It is 49 days after Easter which is significant because it is a week of weeks. Creation happened in Genesis in seven days, God made something out of nothing, formed order out of chaos.

When Jesus comes forth from the tomb, he is a new creation; in him all is made new. After a week of weeks, God finishes this creation by pouring out his Holy Spirit on the believers gathered for the festival. This festival, Pentecost represents the birth of the church - for without the Holy Spirit, the church could not exist.

We invite you to join us for worship on May 19th, as we gather and celebrate the church's birthday. This day is also when Zac Claus will make his affirmation of baptism and be confirmed as an adult member of the church.





Worship Time Change May 26th through September 1st

We will be going to our summer hours of one worship service at 9:00 a.m. starting on May 26th. Our summer worship is a great opportunity for our congregation to gather as one community together in Christ.

Thank you from Jacob

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the farewell lunch and gift; both were tremendously appreciated.

I will remember my time at St. John fondly, and I hope I'll be able to visit in the future.

I pray God's blessing on each of you and your work together at St. John.

*Grace and peace,
Jacob Gordon*

Worship Music at SJLC



We are working diligently to find a new organist/music director at St. John Lutheran Church – we currently have an add in the Pittsburgh American Guild of Organists newsletter, have spoken to contacts in the area and have contacted Duquesne's School of Sacred Music. We will have a student, Megan Rabenstein, playing with us for the first two weeks of May.

Whatever the circumstances, in our worship and in our song, God will be praised and the body of Christ will worship together.

Save the Date

- Saturday, June 22nd - Blue Sox Baseball Game Night (Butler, PA)
- July 8th through 12th – Vacation Bible School. This year we will be doing VBS with the Mars United Presbyterian Church again. This is a spirit filled time for kids and for volunteers.
- Sunday, July 14th, 2013 – a special outdoor service and a fun picnic at the Adam Twp Park

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, May 19th will be our last day for Sunday School for the summer. We will be brightening the outside of our church with lots of flowers in the beds and planters. *Please come join in the fun and bring along gardening gloves, hand tools and any 'sun-loving' annuals.*

Also stop by to indulge in some cupcakes and dessert as we say an enormous thank you to Christine Dishong for her years of service as our Sunday School Superintendent.

(Christine will be turning over her duties to Keith Cardinal)



LUTHERAN ADVOCACY - Immigrant Ministry COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Southwestern PA Synod Office
9625 Perry Highway**

Speakers:

- **Jen Smeyers** - Associate Director, Immigration and Refugee Policy, Church World Service
- **Shoba Siviprasad Wadhia, Esq.** – Founder & Director, Center for Immigrants' Rights, Penn State Law School

You will hear about ...

- Content and status of legislation being written and debated.
- What Christian (including Lutherans) hope will be in the legislation
- What other groups are looking for in the legislation
- Inspiration and Guidance for sharing our voice with our legislators

This event will highlight the ways immigration law helps and hurts families, the tension between welcoming the stranger and maintaining security, and the misuse of detention and deportation.

This event is planned by the synod's Immigration Taskforce of the Church and Society Committee

**RSVP please ! to Rev. Theophilus @ 412-401-5742
or email him @ revtheophilus@live.com**

Pew Pads

In an effort to get more visitors to use pew pads, (and us to be more welcoming), as well as to make use of them for our annual reports, etc. the ushers will be distributing pew pads today and in the coming weeks, during the announcements. Please sign the pads and pass them to your neighbors.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>

MAY BIRTHDAYS



5/5 Nick Brower
5/7 Jessica Ward
5/8 Erin Weaver
5/8 Amy Werner
5/11 Ruth Ann Tully
5/14 Valerie Cardinal
5/14 Dylan Olescyski
5/16 Betty Martin
5/18 John Tully
5/23 Steve Schnelle
5/25 Andrew Schnelle
5/28 Jan Leikauf
5/30 Lee Schriver
5/31 Carolyn Jarrett
5/31 Grace Kratz

Parent's Night Out

Free Babysitting

Friday, May 10th

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Please note that more helpers are always needed so PLEASE contact or see Denise Hager as soon as possible if you could help in any way !!

This Parent's Night Out babysitting service is available to the community, friends and family of St. John's members as well, so please invite others to take advantage of this opportunity to go out and enjoy themselves and leave the kids with us!

There are fun activities, crafts, music (Mr. Olescyski brings his guitar ☺), and the children get a snack too.

It would be helpful, but not required, if you or other parents would please call the church office to register in advance,
724-625-1830.

Address service requested

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
420 BEAVER STREET
P.O. BOX 411
MARS, PA 16046