

June
2014

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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St. John Lutheran Church <http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>

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Mars PA 16046

Pastor Mark's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The first Sunday in June we will be celebrating Ascension day. According to the first chapter of Acts (look it up in your bibles), the Ascension came 40 days after Easter - which falls on a Thursday. Jesus is taken up to heaven and the disciples stare up dumbfounded looking at his departure. Angels come and stand by the disciples and say to the disciples (this is a paraphrase): why are you standing around here, he's going to come back the way he left.

There is a strong implication of why are you waiting around, you have work to do. The disciples are staring up into heaven, after all seeing someone be lifted there bodily is something that only happens a few times in the Bible (most notably Elijah). It is not at all a common thing. So we, like them would probably be standing there, our mouths hanging wide open, unsure of how to speak or respond.

The angels remind the disciples that they have been sent with a will and a purpose, not to merely be astonished by God's work in their lives but to work together with God for the purpose of ministry that they have been sent for. The disciples were called not just to follow Jesus, but to continue his work. Once they were blessed with the Holy Spirit, they were sent forth into the world to share his love with all that they met.

Jesus didn't ascend just to impress his disciples, he ascended into heaven so that he would no longer be bound by the laws of earth, so that he would no longer be limited to being in one place or time but could be in all places in all times with all peoples.

You are disciples of Jesus. You have been blessed by the Holy Spirit and sent into the world to change it, to conform it to the image of Christ. You are not called to stare into heaven, to relax upon hearing the word, but to be transformed by the risen Christ, who rose to heaven so that He could be with you now and always.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark away

Pastor Mark will be on vacation on **June 29th**. Pastor Storm will be leading worship on that day and Jacob Gordon will be playing the organ for us that Sunday. For an emergency contact Pastor Dave Saylor at 724-799-3743.

Synod Assembly

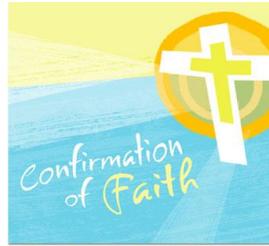
Pastor Mark will be at synod assembly from **June 12th through 14th**, he will be away those days. He will be here on June 15th to lead worship.



Pentecost 2014 - June 8th

June 8th is Pentecost. Given the timeline of the gospels (Jesus was probably crucified in the year 30 of the common era), this year is the 1984th birthday of the church. Pentecost is a great day to be reminded of the gift of the Holy Spirit, that which makes us holy, God's continual presence with us. You are a holy people chosen by God, because of Pentecost.

Pentecost, along with Reformation Sunday (and occasionally Passion Sunday) is one of the days to wear red, as days that are important and momentous for our faith.



Confirmation - June 8th

On June 8th, **Kayla Julio and Kaylee Parr** will be confirmed. As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and as these two young women affirm the promises made to them in the waters of their baptism and claim them for themselves.

Brown Bag Bible Study - Mondays

Our Monday Brown Bag Bible Study group continues through June. Lunch is at Noon and Bible Study at 12:30. Please feel free to join us even if you have not participated previously.



Bibles

You may have noticed there are Bibles in the pews and that Pastor Mark has been mentioning Bibles more often in his sermons. The Bible is our book of faith. We print the lessons so you may read the word of God for us, so it is accessible for all. These lessons are what the sermon, hymns, and theme of any given Sunday focus upon.

However, those lessons are not meant to be limiting, they aren't meant to be the only places we touch with scripture during the week. We want our experience with God's living word to be full, so we have been providing lessons for the coming week to give you an opportunity to read ahead.

We would like to encourage you to bring your personal Bible to follow along in worship, to read more, to learn where the books of the Bible are located, and to hear God's word for you. Please bring your Bible with you to worship.

Ladies Book Study

June 16 at 7:00 pm

Currently, we are reading "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please read the assigned chapter prior to the meeting.



Luther Club

Thursdays – 11:30 am

PLEASE NOTE: For the month of June we will be meeting at the home of Christine Dishong for these sessions.

Christine's home is located at 313 Meadow Dr., in Cranberry Twp.

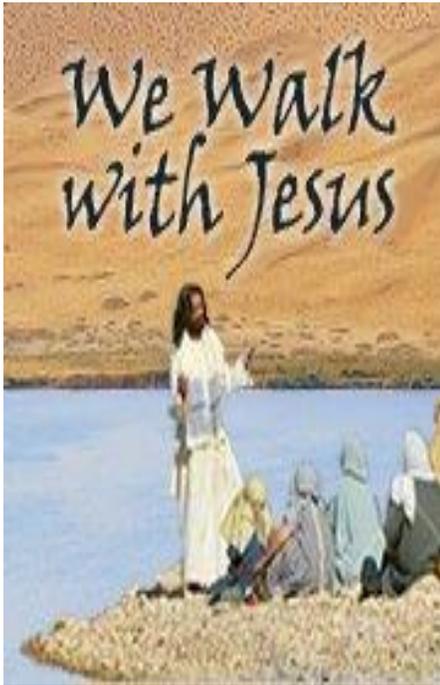
If you would like to learn more about your Lutheran heritage and join a discussion about what it means to be Lutheran, then talk to Pastor Mark or join us at Christine's on Thursdays at 11:30 am.



Quilting Group

The Quilting Group at St. John's meets on the second Monday of each month from 6-8:30 pm.

If you would like to join, please stop by the next meeting!



JOIN IN THE FUN!

Join the mighty travelers as we traverse to Tanzania. Sign up to join the 12 week walking program as we log the miles to reach Tanzania. Along the way, enjoy some Lutheran history, trivia, funny quips, points to ponder, and a delicious lunch at the end with various foods from the different areas that we will be stepping foot.

All physical activity counts, walking, running, gardening, bowling and swimming. Any 20 minutes of physical activity counts towards 1 mile. All you need to do is keep track of the number of minutes of activity and turn in the total at the end of the week. It's Fun and easy, and a great way to get us all up and moving towards a common destination. Group and Individual activity is strongly encouraged. Group walking will be on Tuesdays, Thursday and Sunday's at 6:30 at the Mars High School Football Field.

WALK TO TANZANIA – Kick off on June 1 after breakfast.



Come visit the Big Butler Fair - 159 years proud to be a symbol of American family values. Year after year, families from all over Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and West Virginia come to The Big Butler Fair to enjoy fireworks, the midway, games, demolition derbies, concerts and truck pulls. What a terrific way to celebrate summer!

We at St. John have a special reason to visit the fair, our very own Jim Hopson, is serving on the Board of Directors once again this year. The volunteers that make the Big Butler Fair possible not only view the fair as an event, but as a piece of American history. Stop by and enjoy some terrific food, play a game, enjoy a concert and check out the 4H group exhibits and livestock. DON'T forget to say hi to Jim.



Sunday School Letter

Brothers and Sisters of St. John,

Well, it has been a whirlwind of a year for our Sunday School class. At least for me anyway! I must admit I was fairly intimidated when Christine asked me to take over as superintendant. After all, Christine is one of the many pillars of our Church. And before her was Sally Foster who is another steadfast and upright member! Really, what does Sally NOT do for St. John? The only thing I can think of is she doesn't mow the lawn, but I bet she would if we asked! So, I had big shoes to fill – metaphorically speaking. I'm not implying Christine or Sally have big feet. ☺

Now that my "rookie season" is over, I want to give each of you the opportunity to judge my efficacy and competence not only as superintendant but also as a teacher. Now is the time to let me have it with both barrels. I welcome ANY AND ALL feedback – positive or negative – on my performance. You can drop a quick note in my mailbox located outside Margie's office, you can send me your thoughts electronically to kvcardinal@yahoo.com, or you can tell me your thoughts in person.

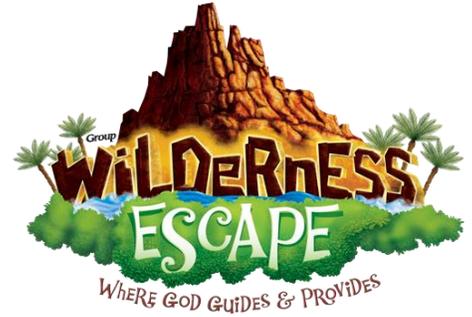
We ended our year by planting flowers around the church. Though the Cardinal family was unable to attend, I understand that the Browers (Nick, Tatiana, Sydney, & Jonathan), the Dishongs (Bob, Christine, & Danielle), the Grebs (Kelly, Laura, Emily, & Lyndsey), the Lydons (Marcia, Victoria, & Makenna), and the Julios (Denise, Gianna, Serafina, & Luca) all helped prepare St. John for the coming of some nice weather. My thanks to each of them for their hard work!

Since our formal classes are completed for the 2013/2014 calendar year, I also thought it appropriate to share with you where we ended up with our tithing. As of May 18th, we ended the year with \$1,711.83 for the Lighthouse Foundation. That is a truly amazing amount and reflects the selflessness and generosity of our congregants. I will keep the "books" open for another few weeks in case anyone wants to make a final donation. After I drop off a check with the Lighthouse, any donations received after that will go into the Sunday School fund and will be part of the tithing schedule for the 2014/2015 school year.

Though our formal classes are over, we do have one important learning event schedule this summer (as in the past) to help keep our kiddos focused on God! Vacation Bible School starts Monday July 7th and runs thru Friday July 11th. You can find additional information elsewhere in this newsletter, but I wanted to make a point of advising you we have attached a hyperlink on the St. John website to sign-up your little ones.

Thank you for your dedication this year. Thank you for giving me, Christine, Nick, Katie, Bonnie, and Denise the opportunity to help enrich your children's spiritual knowledge. And most importantly, thanks to God Almighty for bringing us together as a faith community so we can share our gifts and talents with one another according to His good will!

Peace in Christ.
Keith Cardinal



Vacation Bible School July 7-11 @ 6:00 pm Mars UP Church

Register now by calling 724-625-1365 or online at www.mars-up.org. Enroll your child for the Group Wilderness Escape at VBS!



LIFE – Butler County

LIFE serves low income elders in their own homes. Are you in need of help or know someone who could use help? LIFE Butler County program, a partnership of Lutheran Senior Life and Butler Health System, is a comprehensive health care and supportive services program designed to enhance the ability of frail, low income, older adults to live safely and independently in their homes. Based on need, LIFE can provide primary and specialty care, rehabilitation, adult day care, transportation, medications, medical equipment, home care and much more, all **at no cost** to the individual or their family. To enroll, the person must be 55 years of age or older and meet certain medical and financial requirements. For more information, call (724) 287-5433 or www.lutheranseniorelife.org/LIFE



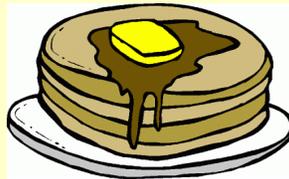
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/05 William Schultz
- 6/08 Cindy Knauff
- 6/12 Janet Senka
- 6/13 Laura Gold
- 6/15 Ryan Murphy
- 6/18 Lori Murphy
- 6/21 Francis Kratz
- 6/21 Katie Niklewicz
- 6/24 Reed Richards
- 6/25 Sandy Hill
- 6/25 Olivia Waldrop
- 6/26 Alaina Nagel
- 6/28 Henrietta Murray
- 6/28 Abigail Cardinal
- 6/29 Gabriella Julio



First Breakfast – June 1 @ 9:15 a.m.

The first Sunday of each month we gather together for first breakfast. We take this time for fellowship and to enjoy a meal together. Please join us!



Worship Helpers

There is a sign-up sheet in the greeting area for all who may be interested in being a lector (the person who reads the lessons on Sunday morning, a communion assistant (someone who shares the presence of Christ on Sunday morning), or an acolyte (the candle lighter who also assists with communion). Your help is requested. Please consider signing up for services.



Cecilia The Saint of Music

A New Musical

written by Cecilia Tomko
directed by Mia Tepper

Come experience a moving musical drama set in 300AD. Cecilia lived during a time of intense persecution under Emperor Diocletian. This story of faith, love, humor and sacrifice will entertain and inspire!

Performances at Mars Alliance Church
June 13th 7pm & June 14th 2pm and 7pm
Tickets \$10 available at May's Music and online at
www.stceciliamusical.snack.ws

Group discounts available



Come to the city and enjoy ten days of FREE admission to the **Three Rivers Arts Festival**. Paintings, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, great concerts and so much more!
Join us June 6 -15 – it's a great way to kick off your summer! For more information online go to artsfestival.net.

Pew Pads

In an effort to get more visitors to use pew pads, to be more welcoming and to focus evangelism, as well as to make use of them for our annual reports, etc. Please sign the pads and pass them to your neighbors.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>



**July 7-11 – VBS – Group
Wilderness Escape**

**Only one Worship Service on
Sundays during the summer at
9:00 am.**

Worship Helpers for June

Please look in the Greeting area for worship helper sign-up sheets for acolyte, usher or acolyte for any Sunday in May.

Ushers

9:00 am

Cardinal

Assisting Ministers

9:00 am

Christine Dishong

June Newsletter

Address service requested

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