

February  
2015

# 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 <http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org>  
PO Box 411 (724) 625-1830  
420 Beaver Street Office email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Mars, PA 16046

Greetings,

As most of you know by this time, I am Pastor Robert Newpher, and as of January 1, 2015, St. John's part-time interim pastor. I am a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Albright College. I am also a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. While in seminary, I also served a year of pastoral internship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Upon my ordination by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, I served two congregations in that synod, Grace, Gouldsboro, in the Poconos, and St. Matthew's, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, north of Reading. In February of 1981 I became the Director of Stewardship in the former Western Pennsylvania – West Virginia Synod, Lutheran Church in America. I served in this call for seven years.

On January 1, 1988, I then became one of the stewardship specialists serving the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As such, I was responsible for the stewardship education, mission interpretation, and coordination of resource development in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. I served in this ministry for 22 years.

I am married to the former Suzanne Stanton, also a graduate of Albright College, who previous to her retirement was the administrative director of Stepping Stones Children's Center in Pine Township. Suzanne and I have two sons, Andrew, an electrical engineer with GE Transportation, and Thomas, a college professor at Wake Technical College in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Pastor and Mrs. Newpher have three grandchildren, and we reside in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania.

I am enjoying my new interim at St. John's.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Bob Newpher

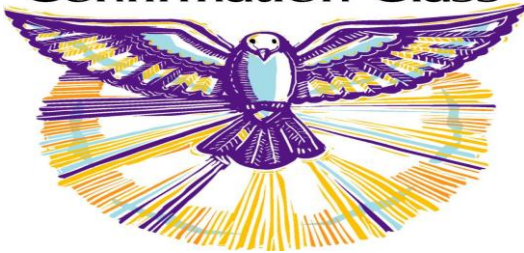


**Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2015 -- Service of Holy Communion in observance of Ash Wednesday will be held on that day at Noon and 7:00 pm.**



**Fellowship Meal and Bible Study** - On the subsequent Wednesday evenings of Lent, a fellowship meal will be held at 6:00 pm, followed by a Lenten Bible Study, "The Common People Heard Him Gladly," which will be led by Pastor Newpher.

## Confirmation Class



**Confirmation Class will be held Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.** We will meet in the church basement. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Dishong.



Thanks to all who attended the congregational meeting on January 18. There was a good spirit. Denise Hager did a fine job leading us through the agenda. We are thankful for the passing of the 2015 ministry budget. We also thank Sally Foster for taking the minutes of the meeting. Copies of the annual report are in the greeting area if you would like to take a copy.

## Valentine Party First Breakfast Sunday, February 1, 2015



Join us for our Valentine's party first breakfast! A list of names will be provided to parents of Sunday School children for cards. There will be decorations and heart-shaped pancakes! Wear red or pink if you have it. This will be the last time for us to "party" before Lent begins.

### Brown Bag Bible Study Mondays – Noon till 1:30 pm

Feel free to join us even if you haven't been coming previously. All you need is a willing spirit (though you may wish to bring your own Bible.)



### Ladies Book Group February 16, 2015 7:00 pm



**Date change this month due to Ash Wednesday.** We will discuss the stories "The Eye" and "The Night". For additional information, see Sally or Denise.

### Chair Aerobics

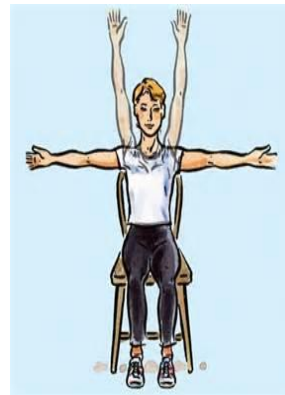
Chair Aerobics will help you tone and improve your flexibility.

Low impact and you work at your own pace.

**Free** for all who wish to join us!

**We will continue through February and March on Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7- 8 pm.**

**No** gym membership dues – **No** costly equipment.



## **Future Synod Events – 2015**

### **February 2015:**

**Feb. 5:** Boundary Training Workshop  
9:30 am to 2:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wexford

### **March 2015:**

**March 19:** Conference 6 Breakfast with Bishop Kusserow – 8:30 am

**March 19:** Conference 5 Lunch with Bishop Kusserow – 12:30 pm

**March 23:** Conference 3 Breakfast with Bishop Kusserow – 8:30 am

**March 23:** Conference 4 Lunch with Bishop Kusserow – 12:30 pm

**March 26:** Conference 2 Breakfast with Bishop Kusserow – 8:30 am

**March 26:** Conference 1 Lunch with Bishop Kusserow – 12:30 pm

Locations of conference breakfasts and lunches to be determined.

### **Regularly Recurring Events**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Sunday Night Live (Middle and High School Youth)  
See detailed schedule on synod web site: [www.swpasynod.org/committees/youth](http://www.swpasynod.org/committees/youth).

### **Future Synod Assembly Dates**

**June 11-13:** Thiel College, Greenville, PA



### February Birthdays

- 02/01 Kathryn Davidson
- 02/01 Helen DeWald
- 02/02 Joseph Meyerl
- 02/05 Herman Boehmig, Jr.
- 02/05 Lindsey Greb
- 02/05 Emily Greb
- 02/10 Robert Davidson
- 02/11 Geneva Hackworth
- 02/19 Kelsey McDonough
- 02/20 Harry Cole
- 02/21 Laurie Passione
- 02/21 Keith Cardinal
- 02/23 Frieda Carbo
- 02/25 Suzanne Berol
- 02/28 James Marshall

**Upcoming Events**

**March 28 – Spaghetti Dinner**

**Communion Bread Schedule**

**February & March – Leikauf’s**

**Worship Helpers for February**

Please look in the greeting area for worship helper sign-up sheets for acolyte, lectors, usher, or communion assistant for any Sunday in February.

**Ushers**  
 8:00 am Bob Davidson  
 10:30 am

**Assisting Minister**  
 8:00 am Matt Claus  
 10:30 am Missy Kramer

# February Newsletter

Address service requested

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 MARS, PA 16046