

July/August
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
Mars, PA 16046

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am excited about being called as your pastor and glad to be a part of St. John. As this ministry begins, it is a time of transition, and new relationships. As this new call begins, I am reminded of one of St. Paul's adventures:

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them...¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth.

(Acts 16:9-10, 13-14a)

Like Paul and his companions, I discerned a call to this place - that this is where and with whom I was to proclaim the Good News of Christ crucified and risen. Like Paul who, discovered Lydia and the other worshipers of God, when I arrived in Mars I encountered, a place of prayer and a worshiping community already using your gifts to proclaim the love of Christ in many ways. We embark on a ministry together and I look forward to being the church together; gathered around Word and Sacrament and in service to one another, the community and the world.

My wife Carol and I are eager to begin getting to know St. John, the community in and around Mars, and each of you over the summer. I look forward to Vacation Bible School, the Church Picnic and other gatherings that will be opportunities for us to get better acquainted as we proclaim the Good News together here in this place.

In the Grace and Peace of Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 3.



**St. John Lutheran Church
Outdoor Service and Church Picnic
July 12, 2015 – 9:00 AM**

Our annual outdoor service and church picnic will be on **July 12, 2015 at 9:00 AM at Adams Park**. The picnic will follow the service. Food and drink will be provided and there will be games for people of all ages. The fee is **\$5.00 per adult** to help defray the cost of food, etc. There is **no fee for children**. Please fill out the form provided with the bulletin and return it to Denise Hager by placing it and your payment in her mailbox outside of the church office. Please make out all checks to St. John Lutheran Church.

Deadline for reservations is July 6. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Denise @ 724-333-0274.



**Ladies Craft Night
Monday, July 13 – 7:00 pm**

Please join us in the church hall for our **“Paint Your Family Tree” class**. The cost is **\$15 per person**.

This is an evening for ladies only, so leave your cares behind and join us for some fun and adult bonding time! Class size is limited so register early!

Please make checks payable to Denise Hager and place in her mailbox by **Monday, July 6** if you would like to participate.

Lutheran World Relief – Our Summer Project

Over the summer, we at St. John will be collecting supplies to make school kits and baby care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief.

Why are we doing this? Two simple reasons really. Our Mission Statement says in part “...and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.” And there is a desperate need for these items.

A Baby Care Kit from LWR is like a promise. It says to that baby, and the mother that you matter to us and your needs will not be neglected by this world. These kits provide encouragement by welcoming babies into an international community that cares and are distributed as part of emergency and relief efforts. They are also given out as part of the LWR health initiative to encourage women to seek prenatal care. These types of programs help more babies in rural, poor areas get a healthy start in life.

School Kits to the children who receive them can **mean the difference between getting an education or not**. Public school is usually free, but in areas of the world where LWR works, even a few simple supplies like pencils and paper may be more than many parents can afford.

When parents can only afford to send one child to school, girls rarely get priority – **yet the education level of the mother has the biggest impact on the development of the child.**

St. John also has a well established **Quilt Ministry** organized by Cindy Knauff. Each year we send approximately 20 quilts to LWR. Where did quilts and kits go last year? LWR works with many partner agencies to transport and distribute kits – United Methodist Committee on Relief, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Irish Aid, and Lutheran World Federation to name a few.

The numbers show the need – 408,245 quilts, 88,705 school kits, 64,810 baby care kits and 41,320 lbs of soap for people in crisis, poverty and need. This served 571,480 people in 20 countries in one year – 2014. Please help in our endeavor to make life a little better for our fellow humans who live with such need daily or face a crisis where everything is lost.

Baby Care Kits

- 2 – cotton T-shirts
- 2 – sleepers or gowns without feet
- 2 – receiving blankets
- 2 – pairs of socks
- 2-3 – bars of mild soap
- 2 – diaper or large safety pins
- 1 – jacket or sweater w/hood or hat
- 1 – hand towel (dark color)
- 4 – cloth diapers (**to be provided here**)

School Kits

- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks of ruled paper (8x10.5 – no loose paper)
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler or one with in. & cm.
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 5 – unsharpened pencils
- 1 – pair of blunt scissors
- 5 – black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- 1 – box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 – 2.5” eraser

Back packs will be provided.



Light Breakfast Sunday, July 5

Please join us as we welcome Pastor Zimmerman to St. John's!



Quilting Group Monday, July 6 – 6:00 pm

If you already know how to quilt, or would like to learn, join us as we make quilts to be donated to worthy causes.

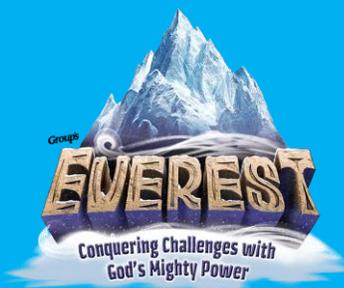
Ladies Book Study
Next Meeting – August 12
7:00 pm

The next selection is **“The Invention of Wings” by Sue Monk Kidd**. Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world.

Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

Kidd’s novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their journeys over the next 35 years as both strive for a life of their own, shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship.

This exquisitely written novel is a triumph that looks at a devastating wound in American history, through women’s struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.



Vacation Bible School
at Mars United Presbyterian Church

July 6-10
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
preschool thru 3rd grade – VBS
4th & 5th grades – Everest Adventures Group

***This year’s theme is “Everest” – Conquering Challenges
with God’s Mighty Power***

Register online at www.mars-up.org, by calling 724-625-1835 or
pick up one of the registration forms in the greeting area.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

07/03 Amber Fritz
07/06 Christopher Passione
07/12 Kathleen Schnelle
07/12 Krystal Smith
07/12 Victoria Lydon
07/13 Christopher Julio
07/13 Marcia Shepard
07/14 Katie Richards
07/15 Davena Hopson
07/19 Jean Claus
07/19 Larry McDonough
07/20 June Siembieda
07/20 Luca Julio
07/22 Jeff Ward
07/26 Chester Carbo
07/28 George Leikauf
07/30 Bob Dishong



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/02 Emma Niklewicz
08/05 Leona Wills
08/05 Denise Hager
08/06 Gabrielle Baysek
08/08 Anne Olescyski
08/08 Fritz Bielo
08/13 Gretchen Baysek
08/14 Laura Greb
08/14 Ava Niklewicz
08/16 Rylee McDonald
08/17 Todd Niklewicz
08/17 Kayla Julio
08/24 Beverly Crislip
08/29 Ralph Storm
08/29 Paulina Scherrer

Mars 4th of July Celebrations

Fun for the whole family!

Parade begins at 5 pm.
Fireworks begin at dark.



Upcoming Events

July 12 – Outdoor Service & Church Picnic at Adams Twp. Park

Communion Bread Schedule
July – Kim Richards
August – Sally Foster

Worship Helpers for July/August

Please check the bulletin board in the greeting area for worship helper sign-up sheets for acolyte, lectors, usher, or communion assistant for any Sunday in July/August.

JULY

Usher

9:00 am Cardinal Family

Assisting Minister

9:00 am Kelly Greb

AUGUST

Usher

9:00 am John Tully

Assisting Minister

9:00 am Missy Kramer

July/August Newsletter

Address service requested

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P.O. BOX 411
MARS, PA 16046