

March
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

LWF Manages Camp in Mauritania

The Lutheran World Federation, known for its expertise and work with refugees, has transitioned from an assisting role to managing Mbera, a U.N.-run refugee camp in Mauritania.

About 40 Miles from the border with Mali, the desert camp is home to 50,000 people, mostly those displaced by a 2011 conflict in Mali. About 20 percent are Mauritians affected by drought.

Recently the Mauritanian government removed its people from the listed refugee population. Yet the LWF knows local Mauritians are nearly as vulnerable as the refugees from Mali. Many of the Mauritians originally came from Mali.

The situation is "sensitive," said LWF country representative Kasongo Mutshaila. The area is "not far from where the Malian chapter of al-Qaida has tried hard to recruit young boys and men to join its forces. It is important that we seek to maintain peace and stability between the camp population and the vulnerable host community," he added.

The LWF will distribute food aid designated for refugees while offering special programs and projects to support the Mauritanian host communities, Mutshaila said.

That the LWF was asked to manage the camp "is a sign of continued confidence and appreciation by the U.N. system for the work LWF has done in Mbera so far," said Anne Caroline Tveoy, LWF program officer for Mauritania.

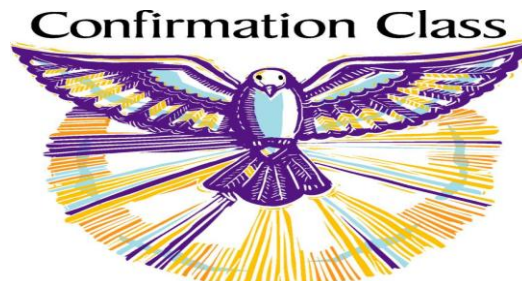
LWF staff coordinate humanitarian efforts, organize refugees, assist with cultural life, and assess current and future needs, which may include plans for repatriation to Mali.

----As reprinted from *Lutheran Magazine*----

Reminder – Pastor Newpher will be away from March 1-6. For any pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Nathaniel Christman at 651-328-1072.

Faith & Fellowship

Fellowship Meal and Bible Study - On Wednesday evenings during 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. Please join us.



Confirmation Class

Sunday March 8, 2015

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

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Pastor Newpher and Christine would like to meet with all of the confirmation students and their parents after the late service for about one hour. It will be a time for all of us to rejoice with our children as they continue to grow in their faith and prepare for confirmation. It will also be a time for us to provide you with a progress report and to discuss expectations surrounding the confirmation process that we hope to implement in September 2015. We look forward to seeing you there, and appreciate all of the time, effort and support you give to your children every day.

Youth Group Start-up

Attention all youth ages 10-18! There will be a planning meeting to discuss the startup of a Youth Group at St. John's. We need your ideas on what the mission of the group should be and ideas for activities, schedule, etc. We invite you to attend a brief meeting **on Saturday, March 14 at 4:30 pm prior to Family Movie Night**. Any questions, please contact Tonya Nagel at 724-679-3703.

Brown Bag Bible Study usually held on Mondays, has been postponed until after Lent. Pastor Newpher will be doing a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings after the Fellowship Meal at 6:00 pm.



SPAGHETTI DINNER
MARCH 28, 2015 - 4:00 – 7:00 PM
Adults - \$8
Children (Age 5 and up) - \$5
Under Age 5 - FREE

Please plan to join us for St. John's annual spaghetti dinner! We will be putting sign-up posters in the greeting area soon listing any grocery items that will be needed. Monetary donations will also be accepted, along with desserts. We urge everyone to use their time and talent to help with set-up, serving, bussing tables and clean up, or just invite your friends and come and eat dinner! If you are dropping items off, please do so on March 27 or 28.



Family Movie Night
Saturday, March 14 – 5:00 PM

Join us here at St. John's for Family Movie Night to watch "Rise of the Guardians." There will be pizza to enjoy as well! Kids – wear your pajamas and bring a pillow and/or sleeping bag. We hope to see you there!

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 March on Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7- 8 pm.

No gym membership dues – No costly equipment.



Quilting Group

Monday, March 2, 2015

Please note the date has changed for this month and we will meet at 6 pm on Monday, March 2.
Hope to see you there!



Many thanks to those who prepared food, served and cleaned up for the funeral luncheons for George Senka and Ed Bielo.

Also, thanks to Sue Bielo for providing hand sanitizers for the pews.

**Lutherlyn Youth Fest 2015
April 10-12**

A gathering of SWPA Synod and NWPAsynod Junior and Senior High Youth

Registration is \$122 per person and all registrations must be received no later than March 27, 2015. Youth in 7th through 12th grades are eligible.

For additional information or to register go to www.SWPAsynod.org or www.lutherlyn.com

**Glade Run Adventures
16th Annual Spring Symposium
Saturday, March 28, 2015**

Embracing Your Garden's Potential

A one day educational workshop benefitting the therapeutic programs at Glade Run Adventures. There will be presentations by Doug Oster of KDKA Radio and Carol Chernega, pruning expert. Also demonstrations, lunch, raffle and silent auction, vendor tables, plant sale and much more!

Reserve your space today by calling 724-452-4453 x1277. Information also available at www.gladerun.org

As members of the ELCA, we have an important message to share and people are ready to hear it: We are saved by God's grace and God's grace alone. Help us to share the love of Jesus far and wide by starting new communities of faith, renewing our existing congregations and expanding our ministries with people living with disabilities.



2015 Rostered Leaders Anniversaries

Lord God, we give you thanks for these pastors and lay rostered leaders and for their faithful service to your Church. Continue to strengthen and sustain them so that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people.

65 Years

The Rev. John T. Braughler

55 Years

The Rev. Philip H. Pfatteicher

The Rev. Richard H. Flock

The Rev. Zoltan L. Nagy

50 Years

The Rev. Charles J. Hartbauer

The Rev. John F. Yedlicka

The Rev. Kenneth H. Ofslager

The Rev. Philip S. Ramstad

The Rev. Vaughn E. Taylor

The Rev. Victor C. Peischl

45 Years

The Rev. Frank A. Kantz

The Rev. Paul F. Koch

The Rev. Richard L. Merkner

The Rev. William W. Brewer, Jr.

40 Years

The Rev. Charles T. Lockwood

The Rev. Craig T. Hess

The Rev. John C. Aupke

The Rev. Robert A. Free

35 Years

The Rev. Beth L. Siefert

The Rev. Mark W. Oldenburg

The Rev. Susan C. Schwartz

Associate in Ministry

Ms. Janet M. Montelaro - 5 Years

Ms. Joi J. Sanford - 20 Years

Ms. Jean M. Sontag - 30 Years

Diaconal Minister

Mr. Richard C. Mohr-Kelly - 5 Years

30 Years

The Rev. Ann E. Schmid

The Rev. Larry F. Mort

The Rev. Linda C. Theophilus

The Rev. Margaret A. Suhr-Barkley

The Rev. Michael H. Robinson

The Rev. Steven E. Broome

25 Years

The Rev. Annette M. Woodman-Howe

The Rev. Gordon C. Hills

The Rev. Margarethe D. Galbraith-Cordes

The Rev. Roger R. Fischer

The Rev. William B. Henry, Jr.

20 Years

The Rev. Anthony J. Schneck

The Rev. Gregory S. Clagg

The Rev. Michael L. Reed

15 Years

The Rev. Sarah M. Lee-Faulkner

The Rev. William A. Schaefer

10 Years

The Rev. Anna P. Weirick

The Rev. Debra D. Thompson

The Rev. Freda A. Snyder

The Rev. Maren R. Alexis

The Rev. Melissa L. Stoller

The Rev. Ross I. Carmichael

5 Years

The Rev. Brian B. Chaffee

The Rev. Jocelyn Johnston

The Rev. Tara R. Lynn

Future Synod Events – 2015

March 2015:

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

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

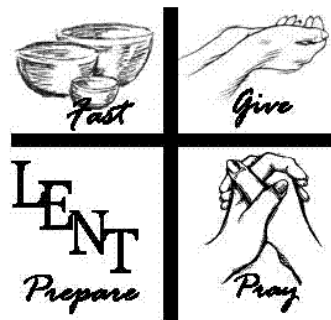
March 23: Conference 3 Breakfast with Bishop Kusserow – 8:30 am

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 2nd Sunday: Sunday Night Live (Middle and High School Youth)
See detailed schedule on synod web site: www.swpasynod.org/committees/youth.

Future Synod Assembly Dates

June 11-13: Thiel College, Greenville, PA – Presiding Bishop Eaton will be present.





March Birthdays

- 03/01 William Greb
- 03/05 James Ward
- 03/09 Douglas Bishop
- 03/11 Tatiana Brower
- 03/13 Ellen Hrach
- 03/22 Patricia Smith
- 03/24 Kaylee Parr
- 03/24 Sydney Brower

Upcoming Events
April 5 – Easter Sunday
April 25 - Tea

Communion Bread Schedule
March – Leikauf’s
April – Cindy Knauff

Worship Helpers for March
 Please look in the greeting area for worship helper sign-up sheets for acolyte, lectors, usher, or communion assistant for any Sunday in March.
Ushers
 8:00 am Larry Werner
 10:30 am
Assisting Minister
 8:00 am Marlene Strabel
 10:30 am Sally Foster

March Newsletter

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