

May
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

God's Work

The great community of the people of God is always yearning forward, always struggling against challenges, always enduring one more week, one more year, one more day. In order that we bear witness to the hope that is in us in the face of the surrounding environment that applies pressure relentlessly to give up, admit defeat, and accept that the world will never be right.

But look! Our synod's congregations contributed to the ECLA Malaria Campaign through the first part of this year \$143,608. As a denomination, we have given over \$13 million. These gifts have come from the same congregations and individuals who believe that they do not have enough to get by with in life.

Even out of our sense of not having enough to get by on, we have provided the gift of life and hope for many around the world. The grace of God is truly at work.

As St. Paul reminds us, we have received the grace of God as a gift. We can see that God's grace remains effective in our day, in our communities, in our lives, to bring life and hope to many.

Thanks be to God!

With you in Christ,
Kurt Kusserow

(From a recent Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Newsletter from Bishop Kusserow.)



Meet and Greet for Pastoral Candidate

The Call Committee and Church Council of St. John are recommending a candidate for the pastoral position at St. John. On **Saturday evening, May 23 at 5:00 pm** we will have a Meet and Greet session so the congregation can gather in an informal setting to meet the candidate. Please come out to meet the candidate and join us for an evening of fellowship. Food will be provided.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, May 24, the pastoral candidate will conduct worship at 9:00 am service. A congregational meeting will follow the service.

It is important that all members be a part of this important decision on the future of St. John.



First Breakfast – Sunday May 3

Join us for great food and conversation between services!

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

I am truly grateful for the surprise birthday observation on Sunday, April 19. Thankfully, my correct age was not mentioned. (Ha ha).

I am very thankful for the beautiful cake and singing of Happy Birthday, the nice quantity of Pepsi-Cola and tasty snacks, the thoughtful birthday card, and the Atria's restaurant gift card where Suzanne and I like to dine.

Again, thank you St. John's for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Pastor Newpher

Pastor Newpher Away

Pastor Newpher will be away May 8-10. Pastor Susie will conduct worship on Sunday, May 10. For any pastoral emergencies please contact Pastor Nathan Esser of Mars United Presbyterian Church at 724-355-0426.

Nepal Earthquake – Lutheran World Relief

In addition to our prayers, the people of Nepal need our help. Quilts and personal care kits are needed as well as monetary donations. To make a donation or for additional information please check the web site at www.lwr.org.

Quilting Group



**Monday, May 11
6:00 pm**

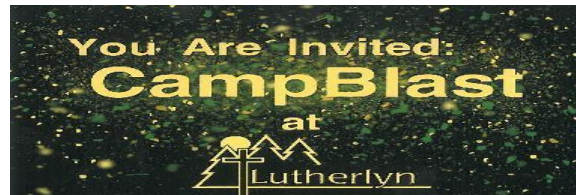
**If you are interested in learning to quilt
or already know how, join us for our
monthly quilting group!**

Ladies Book Study

May 20 – 7:00 pm



We are reading “Dear Life” by Alice Munro. There are several short stories within the book and a reader’s guide to invite discussion.



Join us for a day of FUN! FREE! – Saturday, May 9, 2015

Join us for a day of fun that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer!

Horseback riding, crafts, campfire, gaga ball, archery, high ropes course, zip-line, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, archaeology, rockets, disc golf, kayaking, biking tours, blacksmithing, quilting, displays and activities that highlight the year-round things going on at camp.

The best part is -- **EVERYTHING IS FREE!** No registration necessary, just show up for a fun, free day!



Schedule

11:00 am – Worship in the amphitheater
Noon – 3:30 pm – FREE Lunch in the dining hall
Noon – 4:00 pm – Tons of activities
4:00 – 4:30 pm - Campfire

Parking Lot Access

The entrance to the parking lot closest to the parsonage grounds should no longer be used. Mars Boro installed a curb there last summer to close off access and eliminate runoff from the parking lot. Please use only the open entrance from either end of the alley.

Vacation Bible School at Mars United Presbyterian Church



VBS will be held this year from July 6-10 and the theme is “Everest.” More information will be available in next month’s newsletter and announcements.

Brown Bag Bible Study

Our regular Monday Brown Bag Bible has resumed our normal schedule and will meet on Mondays at Noon. This will be a Lectionary-based study. Feel free to join us even if you have not done so in the past. Bring your lunch and enjoy our study and discussion.

Mars Library

3rd Annual Book-It 5k and 1-mile Fun Run
Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 am

Public Library Day
Saturday, May 16
10 am – 3 pm

For a complete schedule of events or to register for the run check the web site at www.marsarealibrary.org.

Mars Area High School

7th Annual Mars Band on the Run
5k, 10k and 1k Children’s Fun Run
Saturday, May 23, 2015
8:00 am

Presented by Mars Area Band Boosters Inc. and benefits the Mars High School Marching Band.

Register online at www.marsband5k.com.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 05/05 Nick Brower
- 05/07 Jessica Woomer
- 05/08 Amy Werner
- 05/08 Erin Weaver
- 05/11 Ruth Ann Tully
- 05/14 Valerie Cardinal
- 05/18 John Tully
- 05/23 Steve Schnelle
- 05/25 Andrew Schnelle
- 05/28 Janmarie Leikauf
- 05/31 Grace Kratz
- 05/31 Carolyn Jarrett

Upcoming Events
June 11-13 – Synod Assembly at Thiel College

Communion Bread Schedule
May – Sally Foster
June – John Tully

Worship Helpers for May

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 May.

Ushers
8:00 am Dave Knauff
10:30 am

Assisting Minister
8:00 am Matt Claus
10:30 am Valerie Cardinal

May Newsletter

Address service requested

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MARS, PA 16046