

November
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 Pastor Bob's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this article, I am anticipating outpatient surgery on my shoulder on October 29th. All this thinking about my shoulder, the pain and limited mobility I experience now and the recovery and therapy to come after the surgery, has caused my thoughts to dwell on imagery we find in scripture that describes the church as the body of Christ and each of us as the various essential parts of that body.

St. Paul writes to the divided church in Corinth that, *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body."* And, *"the body does not consist of one member but of many."* (1 Cor. 12:12-14) As we observe "All Saints Sunday" this year we can remember that we are the saints together that form the body of Christ, each blessed with gifts that are needed to be able to work together and be the church. As we celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 8th, let us rejoice in the variety of gifts we share to accomplish a wide variety of mission for the sake of the head of this body, Christ Jesus.

Over the past couple of years I have slowly adapted to a shoulder that is less flexible, with a reduced strength and range of motion. I would have gotten comfortable being less than I should be if not for the pain and the occasional realization that I cannot do something I should be able to do easily: like swimming, throwing a ball or grabbing a cup off a high shelf. I need that shoulder, that bodily member, and I need it to be working properly in order to be fully who I am. The same goes for the Church, including that expression of it we call St. John; all members contributing what they are gifted with sharing fully so that the whole body may be all it is called to be. We can find ways to get by without everyone, but it hurts us, for is not the same as when all parts of the body are present and active and the body is whole.

I also know the when my shoulder hurts, when the pain is radiating, I cannot focus easily on anything else. When my shoulder spasms, my hand has difficulty holding something. Paul expresses this affect on the body of Christ, *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it."* (1 Cor. 12:26) Anyone who has spent a long day on their feet knows how one body part hurting affects your entire attitude and well-being. The individual is important to the whole, in addition to being essential for the function of the whole, the whole is lessened when the individual is less than up to par. It is important for the whole of the body be attentive to the well being of each individual part in order to be the whole body we have been called to be. The church must offer compassion and care for all its members.

As we conclude our stewardship emphasis and turn to a time of thanksgiving let us not forget *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."* (1 Cor. 12:27) As we share what has first been given and give thanks for being gathered as the people of God together.

In the body of Christ, together; grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Bible Studies

NO Bible Studies on November 4, since Pastor Bob will still be recuperating from surgery. **All evening Bible Studies are cancelled throughout November.**

Brown Bag Bible Study at noon will resume on **November 11.**

Adult Sunday School Class

We will meet each Sunday between worship services in the Pastor's Study **with the exception of November 8.** For additional information, please speak to Pastor Bob.

Ladies Book Group November 18 – 5:00 pm

The Ladies Book Group will meet at 5:00 pm on November 18 to watch the movie "Babette's Feast" and to enjoy dinner together. We hope everyone can make it!


Quilting Group November 9 – 6:00 pm



If you already know how to quilt, or would like to learn, join us as we make more quilts to be distributed to LWR and other worthy causes.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, November 1

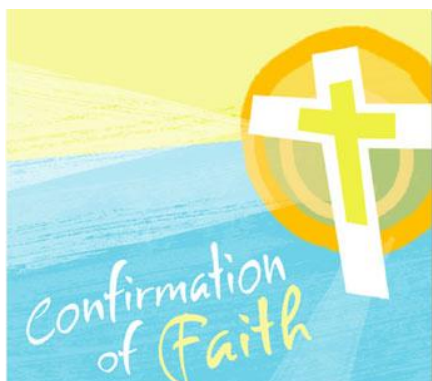
Join us between services for good food, fellowship and fun!



Chair Aerobics

Monday & Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Chair Aerobics is a great way to increase your flexibility and maintain balance. Join us to stay fit!



Please join us in congratulating **Alaina Jordan Nagel and Gabrielle Ann Baysek** who affirmed their Baptism through Confirmation on Sunday, October 25.



Belonging to Each Other In Christ Jesus

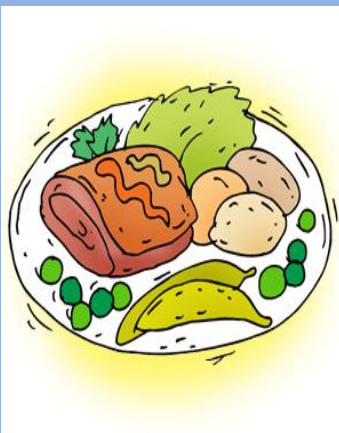
A Six Week Stewardship Emphasis

For the remaining two weeks we will be looking at the gifts we have received from God and the sharing of these gifts as the church together.

November 1 - The Saints Together- Sharing our Time & Talents

November 8 - **One Worship Service at 10:00 AM & Stewardship Dinner following.**

Guest preacher: the Rev. James Dollhopf



Potluck Stewardship Meal Sunday, November 8

Our Stewardship Meal will take place following the worship service that will take place at 10 am this day. ***Please note there will be only one worship service on Nov. 8 at 10 am.***

We hope you will join us in fellowship to celebrate together. The Deacons will provide the meat, but we ask that you bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish to share. Please see the sign-up sheets in the greeting area.

Upcoming Youth Events

November 8: Sunday Night Live Concert- *Rise Up Together*

Featuring: Agape, Rachel Kurtz, Joe Davis

At 1st Lutheran, Leechburg - leave Church at 4:00 pm

December 5: World Vision Packers 9 am - 12- Leave church at 8:30 am

Thanksgiving Holiday – The church office will be closed on November 26 and November 27 for Thanksgiving.

Book of Remembrance

As we celebrate All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in faith. Throughout November, a Book of Remembrance will be available in the greeting area. You are encouraged to add to the book the names of those saints who were important in your life. Each of the remaining Sundays in November we will include the names added during the past week in our prayers. In doing so we remember the great cloud of witnesses that surround us on our journey, not just on All Saints Sunday, but every day of our lives.



Advent Lessons & Carols Service Sunday, December 13 – 4:30 pm

Mark your calendars to save the date for this event. More details to follow in the coming weeks.



November Wedding Anniversaries

November 1 – Keith & Valerie Cardinal

November 1 – Matthew & Jeannette Claus

November 5 – Charles & Cheryl Davidson Jr.

November 5 – Tanya & Thomas Nagel

November 23 – Fred & Jane Smith

November 27 – Robert & Ardyce Rigg



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/02 Ariel "Buzz" Kelly
- 11/04 Christopher Knauff
- 11/05 Tanya Nagel
- 11/07 David Knauff
- 11/08 Robert Rigg
- 11/08 Lynn McDonough
- 11/14 Katie McClure
- 11/17 Lynn Sabbagh
- 11/17 Sherry Davidson
- 11/19 Shirley Kelly
- 11/21 Jillian Wolfe
- 11/22 Brooke Claus
- 11/23 Nancy McCormick
- 11/29 Joseph Baysek



December 6 – Fellowship Breakfast
December 13 – Advent Lessons & Carols Service

Communion Bread Schedule

November – Kelly Greb
December – Denise Hager

Worship Helpers for November

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 November.

Usher

8:00 am	Matt Claus
10:30 am	Jim Hager

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Kelly Greb
10:30 am	Martha Ward

Address service requested

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