

OCTOBER
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>

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420 Beaver Street

Office email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Mars, PA 16046

Pastor Bob's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Dear friends in Christ,

St. Paul writes to the Church in Corinth, addressing his letter, "to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 2) In that one sentence Paul expresses a basic understanding of what it is to be church. In our baptism we have been made holy (sanctified) in Christ and called to be saints together, not only locally but also with those of every place. We have somehow been joined together not only with Christ, but with all who belong to him. As others have said, that while faith is very personal it is never individual. Christian faith is much bigger than that!

This year, we, along with other congregations of our Synod, are using the theme, "**Belonging to each other in Christ Jesus**" for our annual stewardship emphasis. How we live out our faith, and how we make use of and share what God has first given us are indeed matters of personal discernment, but they are not matters that affect only the individual because in Christ we are not alone.

We are part of a community that exists locally as the congregation and globally in the wider church and the Church universal. We share in the ministry of Christ as a local congregation and the work and ministries we provide or support together here in this place. We are also part of the Synod and Church-wide expressions of the Church as the gospel is lived out by "all those ... in every place."

During the month of October and early November we will focus during worship on the gifts God has given us and the uses to which we put them. The biblical stories will stretch from the creation narratives to all the saints gathered at the throne of heaven as we hear again the story of God giving us all things, and our call to be stewards of what God has entrusted us with. Then on November 8th we will gather at 10:00 A.M., for a combined worship service and potluck luncheon as we celebrate our giftedness and the unity we share belonging to each other in Christ.

As we begin this month of stewardship emphasis I am reminded of this old offertory prayer, and I encourage you to remember all God has gifted you with and pray with me:

"O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (LBW pg. 88)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Bible Studies

Brown Bag Bible Study will continue on **Wednesday's at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own "brown bag" lunch and join us for this opportunity for learning, discussion, and socializing.

Pastor's Evening Bible Study meets each **Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm** in the living room of the parsonage. We are studying First Corinthians and all are welcome. Please enter through the rear door by the parking lot.

Adult Sunday School Class

We will meet each Sunday between worship services in the Pastor's Study. For additional information, please speak to Pastor Bob.

Ladies Book Group October 14 – 7:00 pm

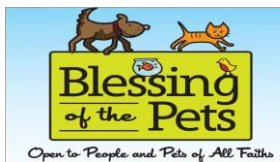
The group will be discussing Chapters 1 & 2 of "**What's So Amazing About Grace**" by **Phillip Yancey**.

Grace is the church's great distinctive. It's the one thing the world cannot duplicate, and the one thing it craves above all else – for only grace can bring hope and transformation to a jaded world.

In this book, award-winning author Phillip Yancey explores grace at street level. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action?

And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and non-forgiveness than it does of mercy?

Grace does not excuse sin, says Yancey, but it treasures the sinner.



Blessing of Pets – October 4

Please bring your pets for the Blessing on **Sunday, October 4 at 1 pm**. This will take place on the front lawn of St. John's. All are welcome!

Quilting Group October 12 – 6:00 pm

Thanks to all who helped to make the quilts recently sent to Lutheran World Relief.

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.

First Breakfast Sunday, October 4

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



Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, October 31 9am – 11am

Mark the day on your calendar and come join us to help prepare the grounds for fall/winter and enjoy the company of friends.



Belonging to Each Other In Christ Jesus

A Six Week Stewardship Emphasis

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

October 4:	Stewards of the Earth
October 11	Wrestling With Wealth
October 18	Servant hood
October 25	Grace Alone- Stewards, Not Owners
November 1	The Saints Together- Sharing our Time & Talents
November 8	One Worship Service at <u>10:00 A.M.</u> & Stewardship Dinner following Guest preacher: the Rev. James Dollhopf

Mission Endowment Fund

Since January 2005 St John has had a Mission Endowment Fund, yet few people know about it or its mission.

We as a church have a duty to support the work of this church, the synod and the ELCA through our time, talents, and financial contributions. Since October is stewardship emphasis month this is a good time to learn about it.

We have from time to time received monetary gifts from wills, life insurance policies and memorials. We wanted a way to receive the gifts and to ensure they are used for ministry according to guidelines.

The purpose is to provide distributions to support ministries beyond the operating budget of the congregation while preserving the principal. To fulfill this purpose, providing annual distributions to various ministries, up to or equal to 4% of the market value can be distributed yearly. This is divided up to 40% as follows:

- Up to 40% for special projects within the local congregational area;
- Up to 40% for special ministries within the SWPA synod of the ELCA;
- Up to 40% for ELCA church-wide ministries;
- Up to 40% for extraordinary programs/ministry initiatives within this congregation; and
- Up to 40% reinvestment to preserve growth.

The fund can respond to a congregational request, under an **unforeseen emergency situation**, such as fire, flood or similar disaster, to use the principal of the Fund to help the congregation rectify an economically devastating situation.

Stewardship involves management of all assets God has given to His people. We then use these assets to care for the world and God's people.

Youth Group



**Friday - October 16 at St. John
8:00 P.M. till Saturday Morning**

Other 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

Results of Straw Poll Vote on Air Conditioning in Sanctuary

Vote from Sunday 9/20/15

First service 33, second service
29, Total 62

First service 33 -7kids, 26 could
vote. We had 7 yes and 10 no.

Second service 29 we had 8 yes
and 13 no.

Total was 15 Yes and 23 No

Mars Applefest Saturday - October 3



Come join us and
support the St. John
booth!

We will be selling
delicious haluski.

If you can help in any
way, please contact
Kim Richards. (724-



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!

Martin Luther Reformation Tour

Complete Travel Service will host an evening presentation of this tour on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 7 pm. The presentation will take place at 134-B S. Main St., Zelienople. (724-452-8000)

The cost of the 11-day tour beginning in Berlin on May 10, 2016 is \$2,329 per person. A deposit of \$250 is required at the time of booking – before October 20, 2015 – and the final payment is due February 26, 2016. Air and transfers are additional.

This very special trip focuses on Martin Luther. Starting in Berlin, visit the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Memorial. In Wittenberg, see Luther House and visit St. Mary's Church and Melancthon House. We continue to Leipzig to visit the Thomaskirche where J.S. Bach worked. Also included are visits to Luther's Birthplace Museum, Luther's Death House Museum, St. Andrew's Church, and St. Peter & Paul Church in Eisleben; the Augustinian Monastery and Merchant's Bridge in Erfurt; Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament, Luther House and St. George's Church in Eisenach; Coburg Fortress; and Worms, where the Imperial Council passed judgment on Luther in 1521. Visit Trinity Church and the famed Reformation Monument. In Mainz, visit the Gutenberg Museum and enjoy a beautiful Rhine River cruise through the Rhine Valley. Next stop is the medieval walled town of Rothenburg, famous for its Christmas ornaments, and a visit to St. Jacob's Church with the renowned Blood Altar. Follow in Luther's footsteps to Nuremberg to St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and to Augsburg where Luther and his followers proclaimed their beliefs. We end in Munich and visit Marienplatz with its old and new Town Halls. There will be an optional excursion to King Ludwig's Linderhof Castle and the Passion Play town of Oberammergau available. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel. A daily full breakfast buffet and seven three-course dinners, with wine, are included.

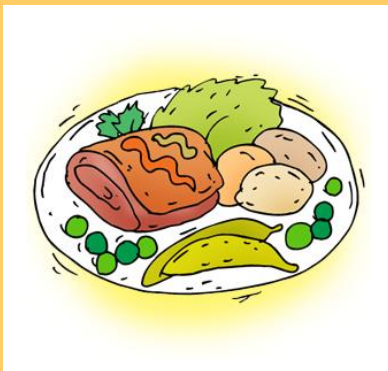
For more details, contact Lynette or Luann at Complete Travel Service at 724-452-8000 or email at

St. John Fall Family Event Sunday, October 11

Join us for an afternoon of fun at The Beacon Corn Maze, located near the Butler County Airport. Hay rides, corn maze and more! We plan to meet for lunch after church services at the Mango Bean in Brickyard Plaza, then arrive at The Beacon by 1pm. The cost is \$8. See Erin Weaver for a coupon for \$1 off. Please contact Kelly Greb if you plan to attend.



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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/03 Joshua Black
- 10/06 Rozlyn Ludloff
- 10/11 Marlene Strabel
- 10/17 Ruth Bielo
- 10/20 Melissa Kramer
- 10/22 Bob Davidson
- 10/22 Amy Adams
- 10/24 Fred Smith
- 10/24 Kim Richards
- 10/24 Giovanni Sunseri
- 10/25 Andrew Knauff
- 10/27 Denise Julio
- 10/28 Grant Werner
- 10/30 Karen Schulz



November 8 – One Service at 10 am
Stewardship Dinner Following
November 8 – Youth Group Concert

Communion Bread Schedule

October – Deanna McDonald
November – Kelly Greb

Worship Helpers for October

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 October.

Usher

8:00 am Todd Niklewicz
 10:30 am George & Jan Leikauf

Assisting Minister

8:00 am Dave Knauff
 10:30 am Sally Foster

October Newsletter

Address service requested

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
 420 BEAVER STREET
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 MARS, PA 16046