

September
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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“Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.”
(Psalm 133:1)

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been two months since I began my call here at St. John. In this time I have gotten to know many of you (though I still struggle with names) and become familiar with some of the traditions and patterns of life. As I have settled in, I have noticed one thing about this community of faith that stands out: the many, many people that are actively working together, committed to the life and ministry here at St. John. There is a constant stream of individuals that pop into the church building during the week, do their task and depart. The vestry, groups and committees full of people make the ministry happen on Sunday and on a continuing basis. It is people worshiping and working together that make the church.

I am reminded of the old children's finger play: “here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people.” The church is only the church because of people. Church is the gathered people of God together, the gathering of the saints, sent to love and serve. I remember one of the questions asked me by the call committee was, “describe your leadership style.” I responded: “collaborative”. I cannot see any other way to be the church than by working together to be about what God has sent us to do as the church. This fall the adult study I will be leading will be looking at 1st Corinthians, a letter written by St. Paul to help the church in Corinth to be the church together in community with one another.

As we enter into the fall season there are a lot of exciting things coming up as we worship, study God's Word, bless our pets, engage our youth, celebrate the seasons of the church, remember all the gifts we have received and share them for the sake of the gospel. We do not do these things alone, but together. I look forward to partnering with each of you as we are the church. I am reminded of a favorite camp song, “The Church Song,” by Jay Beech, ©1988. Here are the first and last stanzas:

*We are the church, the body of the Lord,
we are all God's children and we have been restored.
The church is not a building where people go to pray;
it's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.*

*We are the church, the body of the Lord,
we are all God's children and we have been restored.
The church it is the people living out their lives,
called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.*

*We are the church, the body of the Lord,
we are all God's children and we have been restored.*

St. Paul writes, “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1Cor 12:13)

In the unity we are given in the Spirit, blessings,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

You're Invited

Installation of Rev. Robert Zimmerman
as new pastor of
St. John Lutheran Church

September 13, 2015 at 2:30 pm

A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The congregation is invited to attend and to welcome our new pastor to St. John's.



RALLY DAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 20 – 9:00 AM

Rally Day will kick off a new year of Sunday School! As is our custom, we will be having ice cream to celebrate the beginning of our year.

This year we will be adopting a VBS style rotation with lessons, snacks, music, and crafts. Also, we will be using the Spark lectionary curriculum to coordinate the lessons in Sunday School with what is being used for church services.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and hope all can attend the ice cream rally day event. Until then may God bless and keep you.

Confirmation Meeting September 20 – 1:00 pm

Introductory meeting for all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and their parents. For additional information please contact Pastor Bob.

Fall Worship Schedule

Please note that we will not begin our regular fall schedule for worship until **September 20**. September 6 is one service at 9:00 am. September 13 there will be a service at 9:00 am and Pastor Zimmerman's installation at 2:30 pm. September 20 will begin two services on Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.

Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Youth Group

September 27 – 1:00 – 2:30 pm

The Youth Group will meet to assemble Lutheran World Relief Kits and to discuss future plans. Please plan to attend.



Brown Bag Bible Study Resumes Wednesday, September 9 – Noon

If you have been a part of our Bible Study Group in the past, or if you would like to give it a try, please join us as we resume our weekly meetings.

Bring your own “brown bag” lunch and join us for this opportunity for learning, discussion and socializing.

Pastor’s Evening Bible Study

Pastor Zimmerman would like to begin an evening Bible Study. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet in the greeting area and indicate your preference of either Wednesday or Thursday evening at 7:00 pm.

Adult Sunday School Class

There will be an adult Sunday School class that will meet in the Pastor’s Study beginning September 27. For additional information, please speak to Pastor Bob.

Ladies Book Study September 9 - 7:00 pm

The book we will be discussing is “What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day” by Pearl Cleage.

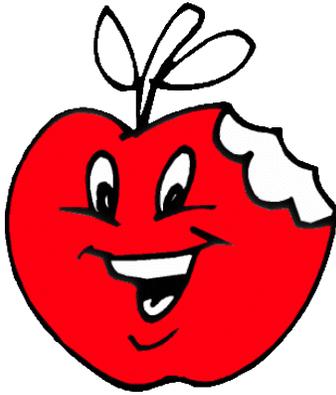
Brief Synopsis: After a decade of elegant pleasures and luxury living with the Atlanta brothers and sisters, Ava Johnson has temporarily returned home to Idlewild, her career and plans smashed to bits by cold reality. What she imagines to be the end, is instead, a beginning. In the 10 plus years since she left, all the problems of the big city have come to roost in the sleepy North Michigan community whose ordinariness drove her away. Now, her friends and family need her in the face of impending trouble and tragedy. Besides which, that one unthinkable, unmistakable thing is now happening to her – Ava Johnson is falling in love.

Acclaimed playwright, essayist, and New York Times bestselling author, Pearl Cleage has created a world rich in character, human drama, and compassionate understanding in a novel that hums with gritty truth, and crackles with life-affirming energy.

Quilting Group September 14 – 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 Lutheran World Relief and other worthy causes.

Be sure to check out the beautiful finished quilts on display in the sanctuary.



Mars Applefest October 3

Fall and Applefest are right around the corner.

Looking for volunteers to staff the booth, and for donations of cabbage, onions, and noodles.

Please contact Kim Richards if you are available to help or donate. (724-316-2263).

Camp Lutherlyn – September Schedule

September

4-5	Father/Son Retreat
7-13	Crafty Lady Week-Long Getaway
12	Pottery Class & Blacksmithing Class
15-16	Equestrian Gym Class
18	Pony Pals
20	Judged Pleasure Trail Ride
22-23	Equestrian Gym Class
25-26	Pottery Class, Quilting Class & Blacksmithing Class
25-27	Wild Women Weekend (Mothers and Daughters)
29-30	Equestrian Gym Class

For additional information call 724-865-2161 or email registrar@lutherlyn.com





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 09/02 Jacqueline Black
- 09/02 Nicholas Claus, Jr.
- 09/04 Larry Werner
- 09/06 Nick Claus
- 09/09 Sally Foster
- 09/09 Angie Passione
- 09/10 Winifred Stefko
- 09/13 Clarence Strabel
- 09/15 Jamie Weaver
- 09/17 Kelly Greb
- 09/18 Mary Waibel
- 09/20 Ardyce Rigg
- 09/27 Roy Werner
- 09/27 Susan Fritz
- 09/29 Danielle Dishong
- 09/30 Matt Claus



- October 3 – Mars Applefest**
- October 4 – Blessing of Pets**
- October 16 – Youth Lock-In**
- October 18 – Healing Service during
Worship**
- October 25 – Reformation
Sunday/Confirmation**

Communion Bread Schedule
September – Erin Weaver
October – Deanna McDonald

**Worship Helpers for
September**

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 September. *Please note that the fall schedule of two services will not begin until September 20.*

SEPTEMBER

Usher

8:00 am	Bill Schulz
10:30 am	Jim Ward

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Matt Claus
10:30 am	Martha Ward

Address service requested

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