

Aug. Supplement
2016

St. John Lutheran Church

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

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.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In July, I had two opportunities back-to-back. First, I attended a week long continuing education event at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (one of the ELCA's eight seminaries) on the topic of "Stewardship Leadership Tools for Ministry," where much time was spent on how God provides *enough* for all of our needs. We discussed the consumerism of the culture we live in and how skewed our priorities can be.

Second, I went almost immediately from that week of classes aboard my friend's sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay. My friend has spent most of the last four years living aboard this 32 foot long, 10 foot wide vessel. All he has use of is contained within this floating home. Due to space, everything I took for the week was packed in one medium size duffel. We loaded most of the food for our week aboard and set sail, and I lived on the boat for five days, as I have done for vacation for many years.

With stewardship thoughts buzzing in my brain from my study week, I could not help make a connection to how living in such a small space and in relative isolation from stores, forces one to pack carefully and prioritize what is truly needed. You become aware that far less that we are used to is more than enough. Daily we make choices about what we "must have." When I meet with couples that are going to be married, an exercise we go through discovers what things each of them think is a "necessity" or a "luxury."

In Genesis 33, Jacob returns home afraid of his brother Esau's anger, so he sends ahead a huge herd of various livestock to appease him. But the brother, Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." In Exodus 16, the people of God in the wilderness are given manna to eat. They are instructed to collect only what they would eat in one day, and if they tried to hoard more it spoiled and became foul. We pray for the Lord to "give us this day, our daily bread." What does it mean to have *enough*? Look around at your stuff; your closets, attic, basement. What is a necessity, what is a luxury? How have we become so oblivious to this culture of consumption that even one of the national indicators of economic health is constantly increasing consumer spending? In contrast is the grace filled promise of Jesus, who after telling the parable of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field who have enough, says in Luke 12, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Blessings,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman





Music Together classes are coming to St. John!

Music Together is an early childhood music class for ages birth-5 and the adults who love them. Beginning on Wednesday, September 7, the Fall Session will be held Wednesdays at 10:00 AM at St. John Lutheran Church. The 10-week class features Music Together's "Flute" song collection. The class includes a CD of the song collection, a

family songbook, access to Music Together's online Family Music Zone and Hello Everybody App.

To register, visit:

<http://marylynnebennettpianostudio.weebly.com/music-together-registration.html>.

For more information, call [412-436-9579](tel:412-436-9579)

or email Mary Lynne Bennett at mlobie1@gmail.com.

Miniature Golf August 28

There will be a Youth & Families Miniature Golf Outing on Sunday August 28th after worship. This will be a fun time for all ages from Grandparents to little ones. We will be at one of the local courses. Please save the date! Details coming soon!



**SHARING
FAITH IN A
NEW CENTURY**

On September 11 we will continue on with only one worship service at 9:00 am for one extra Sunday as we welcome again to St. John the Reverend Doctor Blair Morgan, Director for Evangelical Mission for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. He will share with us ideas and suggestions on how to share our faith in this increasingly secular world.

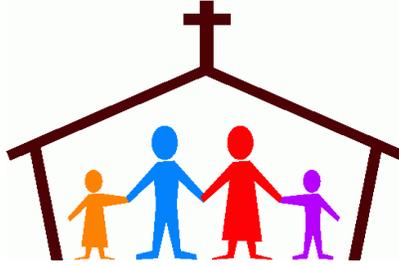
Pastor Morgan will be with us for worship at 9:00 am. Immediately following worship he will offer his presentation to help us get more comfortable with talking about our faith with others. The morning will conclude with a picnic style lunch in the fellowship hall. A free will offering will be collected to cover the cost of lunch.

Rally Day will be Sunday September 18 as we begin Sunday School at 9:00 am and return to two worship services at 8:00 and 10:30am.



Endowment Fund Celebration Sunday, October 2nd

During First Breakfast in October we will welcome Ryan Ebner of the ELCA Foundation as we celebrate the ministries we have supported through the annual distributions made from our congregation Endowment Fund earnings. These are great ministries from local programs to global outreach. Be sure to come to breakfast at 9:00 am for great food and learn more about how this faithful legacy is able to do so much.



CHURCH RENOVATION 2016 DONATION

Church Council has approved needed renovations for our church. The projects to be undertaken are: Renovation of columns in front of church (\$2,600); painting of church exterior (\$4,300); and replacement of basement windows (\$1,600).

We are looking to the congregation to help defray the cost of these renovations. If you are able to help, please make a check out to **St. John Lutheran Church** and designate your contribution as **Church Renovation 2016 Expense**.

If you would like to acknowledge your contribution in the **Book of Remembrance**, please fill out the information below.

Name(s) of Donor _____

In Honor, Memory or Celebration of: _____

(Please circle appropriate designation above)

Worship Helpers for August and September 2016

August

9:00 am

Assisting Minister – Missy Kramer

Usher – Cardinal Family

September

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Matt Claus

Usher – Bill Schulz

10:30 am

Assisting Minister – Martha Ward

Communion Assistant – Valerie Cardinal

Communion Bread – August – Gretchen Baysek

September – Jamie Weaver

2016 CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Dear Church Family,

We are pleased to announce that we will be compiling our 2016 pictorial directory with Lifetouch. The book will include family portraits, activity photos and a roster of contact information.

Each family photographed will select a pose for the directory, and receive FREE:

- A. 8 x 10 Portrait of the Directory Pose in a caramel colored background
- B. Church Directory
- C. \$10 coupon toward a purchase

For your convenience, you will be able to view your portraits immediately after they are taken. There is no obligation to purchase portraits. However, at this time, you will have the opportunity to order portraits. Please bring your credit card, cash or checkbook. Seniors over 60 and active military get 20% off orders.

If you are a *generational* family e.g. Grandparents, daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren, consider signing up together and having a generations picture taken along with your individual family pictures. You can also bring a meaningful item like a portrait of a loved one, musical instrument, sports paraphernalia or your PET. Feel free to wear your Steeler, Penguin or Pirate clothes!

All friends of the church are welcome & will receive the complimentary 8x10 portrait. Take advantage of this evangelism opportunity & invite other family members or friends for photos.

Sign up ASAP to lock in your preferred date.

Plan to be here about an hour for the portrait sitting. Please be prompt but don't come early. Your appointment time is your check in time not your time in front of the photographer.

SIGN UP THREE CONVENIENT WAYS

- 1) online at: stjohnchurchmars.org
- 2) look for the signup table after service
- 3) for help, call Valerie 724-504-3692

Photography will take place in our Fellowship Hall:

Sept 13-14

Tues-Wed 2-9pm

If you donate a non-perishable food item for the food pantry the day of your photo session, you will receive \$5.00 off your portrait order, should you decide to make a purchase (one per household). Please help us Feed the Need.

OUR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY WILL NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT YOU!

Thank you for your support,

August Dates to Remember:

- 9 Kennywood Day & Congregation Council 7:00
- 17 Mutual Ministry 7:00
- 28 Youth & Family Miniature Golf
- 31 Elders 6:15

**Worship Times Change on September 18th for the fall
to 8:00 & 10:30 with Sunday School at 9:00**

August Newsletter Supplement

Address service requested

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

