

January
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 1775, the famous frontiersman Daniel Boone blazed a trail through the Cumberland Gap—a notch in the Appalachian Mountains located near the intersection of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee that led to the interior of Kentucky and to the Ohio River. Known as the Wilderness Road, this narrow and rough trail would serve as the pathway to the western United States for some 300,000 settlers over the next 35 years. For those settlers, many who had never been outside of a city before, the Wilderness Road was a unique experience. It was a time of learning new things, facing challenges, and complete dependence on their guides to get them through. I am sure that more than a few wondered why they started the trek, and considered turning back.

This image of wagonloads of anxious but hopeful settlers, facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles came to mind as I reflected on the wilderness journeys of Lent we will soon begin. Lent invites us to remember the forty years the people of Israel spent in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus was tempted in another wilderness.

Wilderness experiences are times of formation and change. Deuteronomy encouraged the people of God to “Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart...” (Duet. 8:2)

Lent can be a journey of spiritual formation. I invite each of you to take time during these forty days for prayers, scripture reading or other practice. You are encouraged to come together on Wednesday evenings for a simple soup supper, a time of prayer, conversation on scripture and Holy Communion all around the table in the fellowship hall. The theme for this Lenten time of fellowship and worship is “Travelling the Wilderness Road.” We will look how learning, life challenges, dependence on God, doubt and God’s comforting presence along the way, are all parts of our faith journeys.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let’s keep in mind the prayer of the day for the first Sunday in Lent:

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

And all God’s people say, **Amen.**
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Bible Studies

Brown Bag Bible Study will take place after the Noon Ash Wednesday service on February 10 and will continue at Noon throughout February. **Evening Bible Study** will be replaced by our Lenten Worship Around the Table on the Wednesdays throughout Lent.

Adult Sunday School Class

Pastor Zimmerman will be leading a study of the Lutheran Document, "The Use of the Means of Grace", which discuss the importance of hearing and proclaiming the Word, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and the connection between God's Grace and mission. Grab a cup of coffee and join us during the Sunday School hour in the pastor's study.

There will be a service of imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion **on February 10 at Noon and 7:00 pm.** The Brown Bag Bible Study will meet after the Noon service.



Lenten Worship Around the Table

Wednesday Soup Suppers,
Conversation and Worship



“Travelling the Wilderness Road”

In the Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM: February 17, 24; March 2, 9, 16

Confirmation Class

The class will meet on Sunday, February 7 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Purple Pancake Breakfast and Valentine Exchange Sunday, February 7

Join us for our traditional Purple Pancake Breakfast before the beginning of Lent. If you like, you may wear something purple to help in the celebration. Also on February 7, we will celebrate Valentine's Day and have our valentine exchange. We are doing it a bit early this year since the traditional Valentine's Day falls within Lent.



Youth News Upcoming Events

- February 14 - Sunday Night Live – First Lutheran Butler
(Leave St. John at 4:15 pm)
- February 20 or 21- Service Event at St. John Specialty Care Center
- March 12: Skyzone
- March 13 - Sunday Night Live - Zion Lutheran, Harmony
(Leave St. John at 4:30 pm)
- April 8-12 Youthfest @ Camp Lutherlyn

First Communion Instruction

For those children wishing to receive their First Holy Communion (generally in second grade or older) there will be three instruction sessions with Pastor Bob immediately after worship on **February 14, February 28, and March 6**. If you wish your child to participate, please contact Pastor Bob and attend.

Reminder: The second Sunday of every month is "Food Bank Sunday." Please remember to bring your donations of non-perishable items and place them in the basket by the door. Children are invited to bring their donations up with them to the children's sermon. Our donations support the work and ministry of the Lighthouse Foundation.

Free Chair Aerobics
Continuing through February & March
Monday & Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm



Join us as you continue your New Year's resolution to get more exercise. Chair aerobics is low impact and will improve strength, flexibility and balance. We will meet in the church Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Book Group

No book group meeting in February due to Lenten Worship Around the Table on Wednesday evenings.

Quilting Group
February 8 – 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.

Volunteers Needed – Meatball Making

February 20, 2016 – 9:00 am

The Deacons will be assembling the meatballs for the Spaghetti Dinner to be held on March 5. Anyone who is able to come and help with the meatball making will be welcome!

Spaghetti Dinner
March 5, 2016 - 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Adults - \$8 Children - \$5
Age 5 and under - Free



Please plan to join us for St. John's annual spaghetti dinner! We will be putting sign-up posters in the greeting area soon listing any grocery items that will be needed. Monetary donations will also be accepted, along with desserts. We urge everyone to use their time and talent to help with set-up, serving, bussing tables and clean up, or just invite your friends and come and eat dinner!

Special Lenten Collection



During the season of Lent we will be collecting items needed by the Mars Home for Youth Family Services. The Mars home, located right down the road on Rt. 228, has a long history of providing residential care for youth as well as community support centers.

There will be bins available in the greeting area to place your donated items.

Crafts & Creativity

Gift Cards (Walmart & Lowe's)
Play Doh
Kinetic Sand
Chalkboard Paint
Arts & Craft Supplies
Poster Board

Personal Hygiene

Gift Cards (Sally's Beauty Supply & Great Clips)
Nair (for girls)
African American Hair Care Products
Body Wash



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02/01 Kathryn Davidson
- 02/01 Helen Dewald
- 02/05 Herman Boehmig Jr.
- 02/05 Emily Greb
- 02/05 Lindsey Greb
- 02/10 Robert Davidson
- 02/11 Geneva Hackworth
- 02/19 Kelsey McDonough
- 02/20 Harry Cole
- 02/21 Laurie Passione
- 02/21 Keith Cardinal
- 02/23 Frieda Carbo
- 02/25 Suzanne Berol
- 02/28 James Marshall

March 2, 9, 16 – Lenten Soup Suppers & Worship Around the Table

March 5 – Spaghetti Dinner

March 12 – Youth Group - Skyzone

March 13 – Youth Group Sunday Night Live

Communion Bread Schedule
February – Tanya Nagel
March – Martha Ward

February Newsletter

Worship Helpers for February

Please check the bulletin board in the greeting area for the new worship helper sign-up sheet for all worship helpers for each Sunday in February.

Usher

8:00 am	Larry Werner
10:30 am	Cardinal's

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Matt Claus
10:30 am	Missy Kramer

Address service requested

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