

January
2016

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,

On Christmas Day, as we celebrated the coming of Christ into the world, we heard from the prophet Isaiah, *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns'."* (Is 52.7)

This section of Isaiah is written to those in Babylonian captivity; a word of hope and promise that God has been sighted coming among them. They are not alone, God has not forsaken them, God is present. The prophet uses the imagery of a messenger, running to deliver this good news to the people. This imagery struck my imagination as a way to think about, and live out, our mission and ministry as a congregation in the Mars area as we begin this new year.

Did you ever think of your feet as beautiful? Most of us do not, but using those feet to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into your homes, workplace, community and the world is a beautiful thing! Eugene Peterson's "The Message", translates part of this verse as, "Breaking the news that all's well," In today's atmosphere of uncertainty and fear, the news that God is in charge is indeed good news. To share that all is well, that the peace and salvation of God comes into the world is work we have all been called to; as we have been claimed and sent in the waters of baptism. Our Affirmation of Baptism describes how we are drawn into the reign of God as fleet footed messengers when we promise:

*"To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."*

This year may our feet bring us to new opportunities and places to proclaim the good news of Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman





Bible Studies

Brown Bag Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, January 6 at noon. **Evening Bible Study** also resumes on Wednesday, January 6 at 7 pm at the parsonage.

Adult Sunday School Class

The Overlooked Bible Stories will be the theme for January 3. On January 10 a new program will begin with Pastor Zimmerman leading a study of the Lutheran document "The Use of the Means of Grace", which will 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.

Congregational Meeting January 17, 2016

There will be one worship service at 9:00 am on January 17 due to our congregational meeting. We will ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we pray and envision together for the coming year at St. John Lutheran Church. We ask that you join us for our meeting as we plan for our next year together.

Light Breakfast Sunday, January 17

Join us after the congregational meeting for light fare and good conversation.

From Pastor Zimmerman

Thank you to the many Christmas greetings, cards and gifts you gave to us this holiday season. We trust that each of you had a joyful Christmas and may you have a blessed new year.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Bob & Carol Zimmerman

From Pastor Storm

Dear Fellow Members,
What a delightful surprise to have such a nice visit from Cindy Knauff. It was a delightful chat we had. Cindy came bearing a bag of 25 gifts! I am opening one each day and what fun I am having. Each of the gifts is lovely – makes each day fun.
Thank you St. John's – you are great!

Blessings my friends,
Ralph Storm

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.

2016 Vestry
St. John Lutheran Church

Deacons

Missy Kramer, Chair
Katie Niklewicz, Representative to Council
Ruth Ann Tully, Secretary
Jan Leikauf
Denise Hager
Cindy Knauff
Deanna McDonald

Elders

Martha Ward, Chair
Matt Claus, Representative to Council
Kelly Greb, Secretary
Sally Foster
Gretchen Baysek
Keith Cardinal
Tanya Nagel

Trustees

John Tully, Chair
Clarence Strabel, Representative to Council
Jamie Weaver, Secretary
Larry Werner
Bill Greb
George Leikauf
Todd Niklewicz

Church Council

Denise Hager, President
Keith Cardinal, Vice President
Sally Foster, Secretary
Jan Leikauf, Treasurer
Carolyn Jarrett, Financial Secretary
Missy Kramer, Chair of Deacons
Katie Niklewicz, Representative of Deacons
Martha Ward, Chair of Elders
Matt Claus, Representative of Elders
John Tully, Chair of Trustees
Clarence Strabel, Representative of Trustees

Free Chair Aerobics
Beginning January 4, 2016
Monday & Thursday evenings at 6:30
pm



Join us as you start 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.

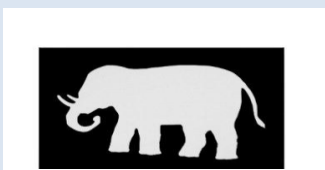
Quilting Group
January 11 – 6:00 pm



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.

Ladies Book Group
January 20, 2016 – 7 pm

Join us as we continue to read
"What's So Amazing About Grace" by
Phillip Yancey.



White Elephant Bingo
Saturday, January 16
4:00 pm



Come join us for our White Elephant Bingo and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship! All ages are welcome. Please bring a wrapped gift for prizes to win and trade. (Price range \$5-\$10). A light dinner and snacks will be provided.

Youth Group **Upcoming Events**

Sunday Night Live
Sunday, January 10

All those attending should meet in the church parking lot at 4:15 pm. We will drive to St. John Lutheran Church on Cumberland Road in the North Hills and will return about 8:30 pm. Cost is \$5 per person for dinner, and a donation to Abiding Ministries for the Homeless of: Tarps (4x6 or 8x10) or jumbo ziplock storage bags.

Save the Date – January 23

We are hoping to go snow tubing or ice skating on Saturday, January 23, weather permitting. More details will be in the weekly announcements as the date gets closer.

Music Together Program

Music Together will be doing a **free demonstration on Tuesday, January 5 at 10 am** at St. John's. This program is an early childhood music class for age birth through 5 years old and the adults who love them. The winter session of Music Together is scheduled to begin on **Tuesday, January 12 at 10 am**. The session will run for 10 weeks and classes run for 45 minutes. Please visit www.maryllynnbennettplanostudio.weebly.com or call 412-436-9579 for more information or to register.

The Church Office will be closed on January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day and on January 18, 2016 for Martin Luther King Day.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01/07 Justin Waibel
- 01/08 Francis Kratz
- 01/08 Thelma (Jane) Smith
- 01/11 Fred Ludolff Jr.
- 01/16 Chuck Olescyski
- 01/19 Jim Hopson
- 01/21 Kathleen Marshall
- 01/24 Madison Cardinal
- 01/27 Gianna Julio

February 7 – Confirmation Class
February 10 – Ash Wednesday
February 19 – Sunday Night Live-Butler
February 17, 24 & March 2, 9, 16 – Lenten Soup Suppers & Worship Around the Table

Communion Bread Schedule
January – Missy Kramer
February – Tanya Nagel

Worship Helpers for January

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 January.

Usher

8:00 am	Bob Davidson
10:30 am	Carolyn Jarrett

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Ruth Ann Tully
10:30 am	Sally Foster

January Newsletter

Address service requested

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 420 BEAVER STREET
 P.O. BOX 411
 MARS, PA 16046