

JUNE
2016

St. John Lutheran Church

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

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,

I have been watching the Pittsburgh Penguins play in the semi-final playoffs and witnessed the many times that the goalie or others have had a "save" preventing the puck from entering the net. It made me think of other ways we use the word "save." You "save money" by making a purchase on sale. A boxer is "saved by the bell" from losing a match.

Two things struck me about all these saves, first: they occur over and over again, in hockey there is the next play, the next game, we continually try to save money, a fighter goes on to fight another day. Second: those that are saved are thereby able to go on to do or complete something; they are saved for something.

St. Paul writes, "For by grace you have been saved through faith." (Eph. 2:8a) A key phrase in our Lutheran tradition is that we are saved by God's grace. So, what does it mean to you to hear you are saved? What does "being saved" mean to you? Many think of being saved as being saved from. Saved from eternal torment, all that weeping and gnashing of teeth stuff you read about in Matthew's gospel; to be saved is all about eternal life. Is it all about having a "get into heaven free card?" Is it just a one shot deal?

I am reminded that where faith is concerned, I need to be saved daily! Inherent in the definition of being saved is the idea of being rescued from something, implying that one needs to be freed from some imminent peril. I see that every day I need rescued from myself and the peril of self-focus our culture pushes us toward. Martin Luther reminds us in the Large Catechism "to be saved ...is nothing else than to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil...a truly Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism, once begun and ever to be continued."

Also, to be saved from something implies that we have been saved for something. Otherwise, why bother. Saved from sin and death we have been given life to live fully and boldly, to share the love of Christ. Jesus heals the blind beggar near Jericho and sends him on his way with the words, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." We are then told that the beggar immediately regained his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. (Luke 18:42, 43) As Luther teaches, we too are beggars in need of saving daily. Once saved may we too live out our baptismal calls to give glory to God in all things.

Daily saved from the persistent deadly threat of sin and death, not by what we have done, but by the grace of God, we have been saved to participate in God's work in the world.

In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

**Both Brown Bag Bible Study and Wednesday Evening Bible Study
will break for the summer.
Classes may resume again in the fall.**

Walking Out of Syria

This is a 12-week walking program designed to increase the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of participants. We will be exercising the spiritual body by praying, exercising the mind by learning about locations throughout the countries that we pass through leaving Syria to get to Mars, and exercising the body through our physical activity.

It is our hope that during this journey you will learn a little about the life of a refugee. The “imaginary” trip from Syria will be accomplished by individuals in the congregation logging their own walking miles each week. For those who do not enjoy walking, any 20 minutes of exercise: gardening, biking, swimming, etc. can count as one mile.

If you prefer walking with others, group walks will take place on Sunday evenings at 7 pm at the Mars High School track.

We ask that you turn in your mileage forms weekly so we can track our progress. Place your forms in the basket in the greeting area.

So lace up your sneakers and come along. Learn a little, enjoy the outdoors and the company of other members of St. John, and hopefully, get a little healthier in the process.



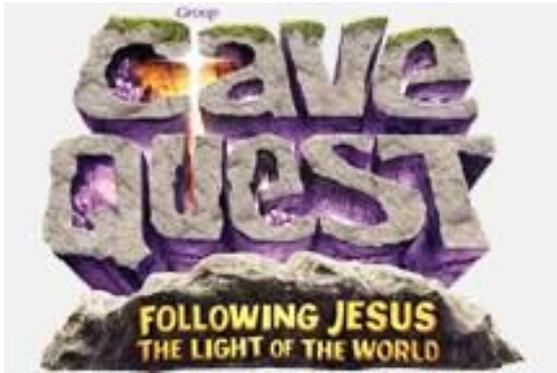
**St. John Outdoor Service
and
Church Picnic
Sunday, July 24 – 9:00 am**

SAVE THE DATE!



Our annual outdoor service and church picnic will be on **Sunday, July 24 at 9:00 am at Adams Twp. Community Park**. Service is at 9:00 am followed by a picnic. Food, drink, games and plenty of fun for all!

More details will follow in the July Newsletter.



Vacation Bible School
Mars U.P. Church
June 20-24
6 pm – 8:30 pm

At Cave Quest VBS, kids will experience God's word in surprising and unforgettable ways! Mark your calendars. Registration forms attached to bulletins or by calling 724-625-1365 or online at www.mars-up.org.

Ages: Preschool – 3rd grade – Traditional VBS

4th & 5^h grade – Adventure Group with team building, ministry projects and excursions!

Registration FREE until June 17th.
\$5 registration fee per child after this date.



The Butler County Area Agency on Aging will offer the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to eligible Butler County residents. The program provides each eligible senior with \$20 to purchase fresh PA-grown fruits and vegetables from participating local farm markets.
Eligibility requirements are: 60 years of age or more – resident of Butler County – Live independently (no long-term care facility) – Annual income not to exceed - \$21,978 (single) - \$29,637 (married couple).

REMINDER

The second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring your donation of a non-perishable food item to worship on that day.

Thiel College
The Lay School of Theology Course
June 24 -26, 2016

Thiel College and The Lay School of Theology are offering the course:

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”
The Story and History of Jesus

This course will be offered on **Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26, 2016**. The instructor will be The Rev. Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. The cost of the course is \$200 and includes dinner Friday evening (5:00-5:45 pm) and noon meal on Sunday, and housing.

Class size is limited; class assignments are made as registrations are received.

Session 1 – Who was Jesus?
Session 2 – The Birth of Jesus
Session 3 – Jesus the Teacher
Session 4 – Jesus the Miracle Worker
Session 5 – The Death of Jesus
Session 6 – The Resurrection of Jesus

If interested, see registration forms and additional information on the table in the greeting area.

**St. John
Second Quarter Mission Emphasis –
Glade Run Lutheran Services**

**Ladies Book Group
June 29 – 7:15 pm**

The next meeting of the Ladies Book Group will be at the home of Cindy Knauff. We will read chapters 11-15 of *“What’s So Amazing About Grace.”*

Each member will present a section to be discussed by the group. We will begin at approximately 7:15 pm after the Elders meeting.

**Quilting Group
June 6 – 6:30 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.

**LUTHERAN SENIOR LIFE
ATTENTION: GOLF LOVERS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



**U.S. Open Golf Tournament – Oakmont Country Club
June 13 through June 19, 2016**

The U.S. Open is back in western PA this year and you can watch the action live with a complimentary grounds pass.

Lutheran Senior Life/Lutheran Service Society is in urgent need of volunteers to staff our concession stand at the tournament. As a volunteer, you will be given a free pass to watch pros on the course before or after your shift.

The concession company will match each shift we fill with a donation based on the percentage of gross sales for the week. Each dollar we receive from this event will go toward helping low income seniors remain safe and healthy in their own homes.

For more information, or to sign up, please contact Jennifer McIntire at 724-453-6015 or Jennifer.mcintire@lutheranseniorlife.org.



**Lutheran Day at Kennywood
Monday, July 18, 2016**

Discount tickets are available for Lutheran Day at Kennywood! Discount price is \$22 per person, kids 2 years old and under free!

Ticket orders must be submitted by July 1, 2016.

For additional information, go to www.kennywood.com or see the poster in the greeting area of the church.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 06/05 Gerald Brunson
- 06/05 Bill Schulz
- 06/06 Henry Ford
- 06/08 Cindy Knauff
- 06/12 Janet Senka
- 06/13 Laura Gold
- 06/14 Mason Adams
- 06/21 Francis Kratz
- 06/21 Katie Niklewicz
- 06/24 Reed Richards
- 06/26 Alaina Nagel
- 06/28 Henrietta Murray
- 06/28 Abigail Cardinal
- 06/29 Gabriella Julio

July 19 – Lutheran Day @ Kennywood
July 24 – Church Picnic
September 13 & 14 – Directory Picture Days

Communion Bread Schedule
June – Carol Zimmerman
July – Jan Leikauf



- 06/06 - Jane & Bruce Bevilacqua
- 06/07 - Steve & Kathleen Schnelle
- 06/08 - Ariel & Shirley Kelly
- 06/11 - Jamie & Erin Weaver
- 06/17 - Lawrence & Lynn McDonough
- 06/26 - Bill & Karen Schulz
- 06/29 - Henry & Janet Ford

June Worship Helpers

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

Usher

9:00 am Bob Dishong

Assisting Minister

9:00 am Christine Dishong

June Newsletter

Address service requested

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