

March
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,

The other day I was asked about how and why we rang the church bell during the Lord's Prayer in worship. The answer lies in the historical tradition of village churches that were surrounded by farmland. When working in the fields the sound of the bells allowed those unable to be in worship the opportunity to pray the Lord's Prayer along with the community as the bell is rung throughout the prayer.

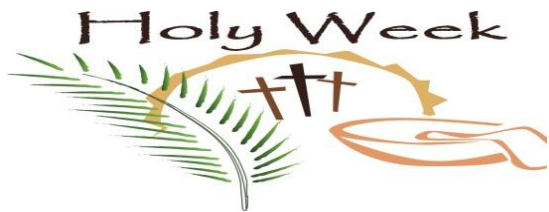
I know where I live, over a mile from the center of Harmony Borough; I can clearly hear the bell of Grace Church in the square. The clear tones of a bell carry great distances. The sounds of a bell carry worship outward and include those going about necessary tasks. Worship and prayer is not limited to the church building but occurs in the home, field and workplace.

In this season of Lent we are invited to commit to spiritual practices that help us remember the gift we have received in the death and resurrection of Jesus. That may include giving up something like chocolate and attending special Lenten worship services at church, but these bells remind me that worship and our spiritual life is not restricted to the walls of a church building. It is outside the church in the weekday, in the everyday, in regular life that we live out our faith. It is in the midst of work and play that we can give constant thanks and praise to God.

I recently was out driving and noticed that some fields are already being plowed, a sign that spring is on its way and it is a busy time for farmers. I could not help but think about bells ringing, tractors plowing, and prayers prayed. Part of the statement of purpose in all Lutheran congregation constitutions came to my mind: "... to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling..."

Baptized in Christ, we gather as the people of God to be strengthened by God's Word and fed for the journey; after Sunday, we are sent into Monday morning life to live out our faith in word and deed. Our Lenten disciplines help us to recall what Jesus Christ has done for us, given us life - a life to be lived prayerfully and joyfully.

Lenten prayers and Easter joy,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



**Passion/Palm Sunday
March 20**

Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

**Maundy/Holy Thursday
March 24**

Service at 7:00 pm

**Good Friday
March 25**

Service at Mars United Presbyterian
Church - Noon
St. John Service at 7:00 pm

**Easter Vigil
March 26**
Service at 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday
March 27**
Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Welcome!

**Welcome the Reverend David Saylor, his wife
Carol and their children to Mars.**

Pastor Saylor and his family will be renting our vacant parsonage for several months while he is seeking a call to a new congregation. You may recognize the name; Pastor Saylor served for many years at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Evans City. If you see them around Mars, please make them feel at home.

**First Communion Instruction – March 20
After Late Worship**

For those children wishing to receive their First Holy Communion (generally in second grade or older) there will be one more instruction sessions with Pastor Bob immediately after worship.

Confirmation Class – March 20 – 1pm
Meet at the church for class. For additional information please contact Christine Dishong or Pastor Zimmerman.

Lenten Worship Around the Table

Wednesday Soup Suppers,
Conversation and Worship



“Travelling the Wilderness Road”

In the Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM: March 2, 9, 16



Bible Studies

Brown Bag Bible Study will be on the following Wednesdays during **March – March 2, 9, & 16**. There will not be a Bible Study on the Wednesday during Holy Week.

Evening Bible Study will be replaced by our Lenten Worship Around the Table on the Wednesdays throughout Lent, **ending on March 16**. Evening Bible Study will **resume on March 30**.

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.

Spaghetti Dinner

March 5, 2016 - 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Adults - \$8 Ages 6-13 - \$5

Age 5 and under - Free



Please plan to join us for St. John's annual spaghetti dinner! Sign-up posters are in the greeting area listing 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!

Fellowship Breakfast – Sunday, March 6



Please join us for our monthly Fellowship Breakfast for good food and good conversation! All are welcome!



St. John Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday – March 27

Please join us for a fun time with the children for the Egg Hunt and for our Easter Breakfast between services.

Youth News Upcoming Events

March 12 - Skyzone

March 13 - Sunday Night Live -
Zion Lutheran, Harmony
(Leave St. John at 4:30 pm)

April 8-10 - Youthfest @ Camp
Lutherlyn



Youth Fest – April 8-10

For youth in grades 7-12. Cost is \$124. See Pastor Zimmerman or Tanya Nagel to register by March 13.

Camp Blast - May 7, 2016 – 11am - 4:30 pm

A **FREE** day at camp for the entire family! Let's get a group together and go as a congregation!

Visit www.lutherlyn.com/campblast for more details.

Remnant Confirmation Camp – June 26-July 1

For all youth in confirmation or just confirmed this past year. Join Pastor Zimmerman and other pastors and youth from several Lutheran congregations for a week at Lutherlyn to continue growing and experiencing your faith.

YouthFest and Confirmation Camp Sponsorships Needed

YouthFest is a retreat weekend at Camp Lutherlyn for youth in grades 7-12 - April 8-10. It is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to engage in faith forming activities, team building, fun and awesome worship. The cost per person is \$124 for the weekend.

Remnant Confirmation Camp, held June 26- July 1 this year at Camp Lutherlyn, is a unique opportunity for youth to experience and grow in their faith and understanding. A group of pastors have formed this special camp to offer experiences to supplement and enrich the regular confirmation class program. This week of camp in a community of fellow confirmation students, camp staff and pastors, our youth live out their faith in hands on activities, bible study, service opportunities and regular camp fun. It is strongly encouraged that all confirmation students join Pastor Zimmerman and attend this camp at least once during their three year confirmation journey and even the summer following.

The cost for this week of fun and learning is \$338 per camper. This is less expensive than a regular week of camp at Lutherlyn, because the pastors serve as leaders of the group. Though a good value for the experience this is still a good deal of money.

St. John is looking for people who can step up and sponsor all or a portion of a youth's camp fee at YouthFest or Confirmation Camp. We currently have six youth that are eligible to attend. If you are able and willing to be a sponsor please contact Pastor Zimmerman, Denise Hager or Sally Foster.

Ladies Book Group March 30 – 7 pm

Join us as we resume our Ladies Book Group evenings.

Camp Lutherlyn and Amazon Smile Program

Amazon.com is partnering with various charitable organizations through their Amazon Smile Program. Camp Lutherlyn is one of those organizations. If you shop on Amazon for books, electronics or any items they offer, a portion of your purchase price will be donated to the charity of your choice.

Go to **smile.amazon.com** and you will be prompted to choose a charity. Type in Camp Lutherlyn. It's that easy!

For other ways to donate to Lutherlyn, go to their web site at www.lutherlyn.com.



Free Chair Aerobics
Continuing through 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.

Quilting Group
March 14 – 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.



Easter 2016

Easter Flowers order form

Flowers will be used for decorating the church during the Easter season this year. **Please make selections and order by Tuesday, March 8.** You may place this order form along with your payment in the collection plate, or mail the form and payment to the church. **Make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church.**

Name(s) of giver: _____

# of Lilies \$8.00	# of Tulips (mixed colors) \$8.00	# of Hydrangeas \$12.00	Circle ONE and note 'for whom' flower is for: In Honor of (H), In Memory of (M), or In Celebration of (C)	Cost
			H/M/C:	
			H/M/C:	
			H/M/C:	
			H/M/C:	

Total Cost: \$ _____

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 03/01 William Greb
- 03/05 James Ward
- 03/09 Douglas Bishop
- 03/11 Tatiana Brower
- 03/13 Ellen Hrach
- 03/22 Patricia Smith
- 03/24 Kaylee Parr
- 03/24 Sydney Brower

- April 8 -10 – Youthfest at Camp Lutherlyn**
- April 16 – Spring Clean-up**
- April 23 – Ladies Tea - Noon – 3 pm**
- April 24 – Pizza Lunch & Bowling**

Communion Bread Schedule
March – Martha Ward
April – Sally Foster

Worship Helpers for March

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 March.

Usher

8:00 am	John Tully
10:30 am	Jim Ward

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Marlene Strabel
10:30 am	Sally Foster



ANNIVERSARY

03/26 Jim & Martha Ward

March Newsletter

Address service requested

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