

May
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,

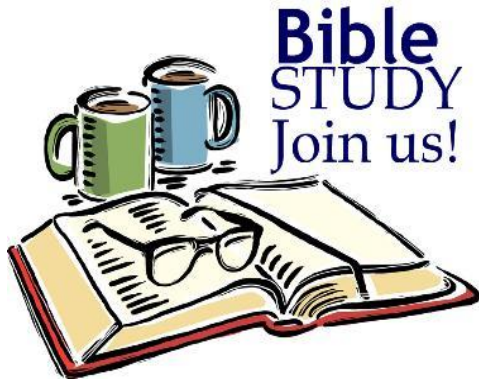
I recently saw the above picture of the Pentecost moment, by an unknown artist, and I was taken with the sense of motion and energy in the scene. Swirling wind and raging fire engulf the apostles as it gives a representation of what we read in Acts 2:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-5

Often we think of the Holy Spirit as a cute little dove, the gentle breath of God or a comforting and guiding presence in our lives. But Luke, writing in Acts, presents a different side to the Spirit -- violent wind and holy fire! Windstorms knock things down and blow things around. Fire burns, lays waste. But also, wind blows seeds that grow, and fire changes the landscape but also gives nutrients to the soil that stimulate new life. This is imagery of active disruption and transformation. The coming of the Holy Spirit is a game changer that blows and sings the way for our new life in Christ.

Author, social reformer, and abolitionist, Fredrick Douglas once wrote, "It is not light that we need, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake." As we celebrate Pentecost this month (May 15th) may we see how the violent wind of the Spirit may be pushing us in new and unexpected directions to share the good news of Christ. May we feel the heat of its fire transforming our lives for the sake of the gospel. May we get caught up in the storm of Spirit led mission.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Bible Studies

Brown Bag Bible Study will continue throughout May on Wednesdays at Noon. Bring your lunch and join us!

Evening Bible Study will continue through May as well. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm.

Adult Sunday School Class

Pastor Zimmerman continues leading a study of the Lutheran Document, "The Use of the Means of Grace", which discusses 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.

Member Information Form

In order to update and maintain accurate records of all members of St. John, a form is included in this newsletter so we may verify and update all information. Some of the information (name, address, phone numbers, emails) will also be used to update the Member Directory. If you do not wish your phone number or email to be published in the Directory, please indicate on the form.

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Zimmerman will generally be available for "drop in" visits according to the following schedule.

Tuesdays in office – 9:30 am-1 pm
Wednesdays – "Coffee Hours"
at Mars Brew House – 9:30 – 11 am.
Wednesday evenings in office – 5 -7 pm
Thursdays in office – 9:30 am – 1 pm
Available other times by appointment.

Quilting Group May 9 – 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.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, May 1

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

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

Ladies Book Group May 25 - 7 pm

The group will continue to read "What's So Amazing About Grace?", chapters 6 through 9. This section of the book is sub-titled "Breaking the cycle of Ungrace."

**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 Greensburg, 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.



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.



MAY 21ST 2016!

8th Annual Mars Band on the Run

5k, 10k, & 1k Children's Fun Run

May 21, 2016

8:55am (10K)

9:00am (5k)

Mars Area High School



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).

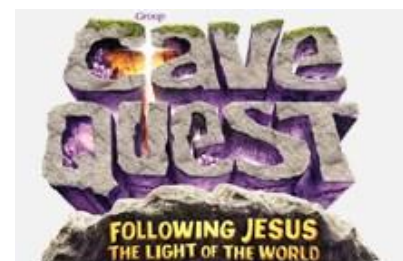
Voucher distribution dates and locations are posted on the bulletin board in the greeting area.

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 will be available soon at mars-up.org. For additional information or to volunteer, please call 724-625-1365.



St. John Lutheran Church
PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046

Please complete as much information as you can. We need this information to update and complete the membership rolls. Thank you.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (HOME) _____ (CELL) _____

EMAIL: _____

MAIDEN NAME: _____

PARENTS: _____

SPOUSE NAME: _____

CHILDREN'S NAMES: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

DATE OF BAPTISM: _____

PLACE OF BAPTISM: _____

DATE OF FIRST COMMUNION: _____

PLACE OF FIRST COMMUNION: _____

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____

PLACE OF CONFIRMATION: _____

DATE OF MARRIAGE: _____

PLACE OF MARRIAGE: _____

(You may copy this form to make additional forms if necessary)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 05/05 Nick Brower
- 05/07 Jessica Woomer
- 05/08 Amy Werner
- 05/08 Erin Weaver
- 05/11 Ruth Ann Tully
- 05/14 Valerie Cardinal
- 05/18 John Tully
- 05/20 Olivia Claus
- 05/23 Steve Schnelle
- 05/25 Andrew Schnelle
- 05/28 Janmarie Leikauf
- 05/31 Grace Kratz

June 20-24 – Vacation Bible School
June 26-July 1 – Remnant Confirmation Camp
July 24 – Church Picnic
September 13 & 14 – Photo Directory Picture Days

Communion Bread Schedule
May – Cindy Knauff
June – Carol Zimmerman

Worship Helpers for May

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 May.

Usher

8:00 am	George Leikauf
10:30 am	John Fritz

Assisting Minister

8:00 am	Matt Claus
10:30 am	Valerie/Keith Cardinal

May Newsletter

Address service requested

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