

November
2016

St. John Lutheran Church

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

Web site: www.stjohnchurchmars.org
Church Office: (724) 625-1830
Office email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor Bob's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

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.

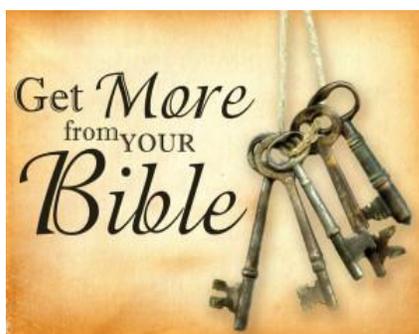
Dear friends in Christ,

Many of you are familiar with the story from First Kings of Elijah, fleeing from King Ahab, climbs up Mt. Horeb. While hiding in a cave he heard God saying that God will pass by. In the story we hear that first there was a great wind that shattered rocks, but God was not in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake, but God was not in the wind, and after the earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. Finally there was, *"a gentle and quiet whisper. When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there. A quiet voice asked, 'So Elijah, now tell me, what are you doing here?'"* (1Kings 19.11-13, The Message)

I recently received a letter from the acting executive director of Camp Lutherlyn, Deb Roberts, updating us on the program. In the note she mentioned how all campers are asked at the conclusion of their stay to complete the statement, "The most important thing I learned this week was..." Common responses were "...always be kind", or "...God is always with me." Ms. Roberts recalls one eight year olds response; "...God can be quiet, so you have to listen." That is a pretty insightful observation for an eight year old. That still and quiet whisper of God can be difficult to hear in the midst of the hubbub of all that goes on around us. We can get so busy doing that we fail to hear let alone respond to God's call to us. Just as Lutherlyn seeks to teach the next generation of the Church how to listen for God, we as the part of the Church that is in Mars also must keep our ears attuned to God's quiet call in the midst of the hustle and bustle of life.

In the coming weeks we will be forming a mission planning team to prayerfully discern where God is calling us at this time in the life of St. John. These individuals will spend several months listening to God through bible study and prayer as well as listening to the congregation members and our communities. St. John has a long history of faithful witness to this community. What are the best ways to continue being faithful amid all the changes that are around us? What new ways can we connect with our neighbors, including the many new families that are moving into the area? What is God calling us to do in this time and place? Through a time of listening, sharing and discernment we hopefully will be able to respond faithfully to the question, *"what are you doing here?"*

Blessings,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

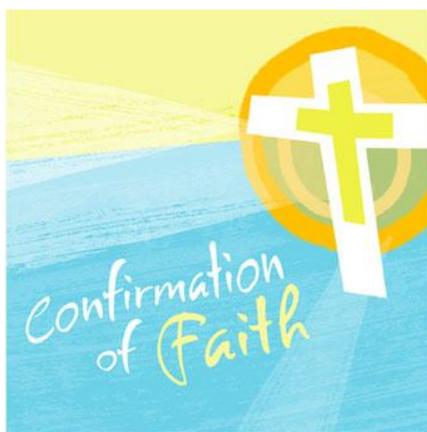


NOON BIBLE STUDY

The Brown Bag Bible Study Group will meet on November 2, 9, 16, 30. *Please note there will not be a bible study on November 23.* All are welcome to join!

Book of Remembrance

As we celebrate All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in faith. Throughout November, a Book of Remembrance will be available in the greeting area. You are encouraged to add to the book the names of those saints who were important in your life. Each of the remaining Sundays in November we will include the names added during the past week in our prayers. In doing so we remember the great cloud of witnesses that surround us on our journey, not just on All Saints Sunday, but every day of our lives.



Please join us in congratulating **Victoria Lydon** who affirmed her Baptism through Confirmation on Sunday, October 30.

A Night in Bethlehem Saturday - December 10, 2016 10 am – 2 pm

Something new this coming Advent season at St. John. Save the date – December 10, 2016. A Night in Bethlehem will be a unique experience for Moms, Dads, and kids alike as they discover Jesus in Bible-times Bethlehem!

During this 2-3 hour festive event, families will wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Unlike your typical "living Nativity," each person will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. Everyone will love talking to Mary and Joseph in The Stable, and hearing about the miracle of Jesus' birth.

There will be crafts for all, including metal shop, writing Hebrew calligraphy, wooden Jesus signs, ornament painting, clay pot making, baking flat bread and acting out the Christmas story. ***There is no fee to attend, but we ask that your register ahead of time so we may plan accordingly.*** There is a registration form with this newsletter and a sign-up sheet in the greeting area.

Thanksgiving Holiday – The church office will be closed on November 24 and November 25 for Thanksgiving.

Youth Group News

*Food, Fun & Faith
Next Meeting
November 6, 2016*

On the first Sunday of each month the Youth Group, which includes all youth ages 10 and up, will meet for Food, Fun & Faith at 11:45 am (after 10:30 am worship) until 1 pm for a regular gathering. There will be lunch, devos, and games. Plan now to attend this monthly opportunity for fellowship and ongoing faith building in addition to our monthly fun or service outings like World Vision.

Youth Lock in at St. John Friday, November 18 – Saturday AM November 19

Plan now to attend this overnight of fun and fellowship. We will begin Friday night at 7pm and continue till around 9:30 am Saturday. Bring a snack to share, a movie you like, and your favorite song on your phone or iPod. All youth group members are invited.



LADIES CRAFT NIGHT Wednesday, November 16 – 6:30 pm

Ladies, sign up for a night out away from our day-to-day cares on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm.

We will be crafting the artwork pictured. **There is a fee of \$25. Reservations due by November 9** and there is a sign-up sheet in the greeting area. Fee should be paid to Denise Hager.

Music Together Program Continues thru Nov. 9

This program is for children from birth to age 5 and the adults who accompany them. The sessions are on Wednesdays at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Mary Lynne Bennett at 412-436-9579 or mlobie1@gmail.com



© Can Stock Photo



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST November 6, 2016

Join us between services for good food, conversation and fun!

Looking Ahead to Advent

Sunday, November 27, is the first Sunday in Advent. The time set apart to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. At the end of that four weeks is Christmas with all of the decorations, parties, and other celebrations. We put up our Christmas tree on the last Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday before Christmas. We now have a lovely tree and it could use some new ornaments. A tradition in the Lutheran Church is to decorate the tree with Christmons. The word is a combination of Christ and monograms and symbols used by his followers.

Christmons are traditionally white and gold. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and gold celebrates His glory. It would be a nice project for us to make some new Christmons using counted cross stitch on white Aida cloth with gold thread. I have patterns and can make a kit for any of the patterns. If you are interested in joining in the stitching, please let me know. It will take many ornaments to cover the tree and I know some will get some done this year, but it will be an ongoing project. The cloth and thread have been lovingly donated. I would be happy to show anyone how to do counted cross stitch.

Sally Foster

Quilting Group

November 14 – 6:30 pm

Our group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have an interest in quilting or would just like to learn, please join us!

Ladies Book Group

November 30 – 7:00 pm

We are reading "The Little Paris Book Shop" by Nina George. Come and enjoy discussion as we begin our new "read." New members are always welcome! If you have any questions, see Denise Hager or Sally Foster.

St. John Online Giving Now Available

We are excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! It is safe, easy, and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere with internet access. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at <http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org/>
2. Click on the {Giving} button
3. Click on the {Create Profile} button
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please see the church Financial Secretary, Christine Dishong.

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.

Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement

We have an opportunity to be involved in writing the newest ELCA social statement. Social statements are teaching and policy documents to help discuss social issues in the context of faith and life. They also guide the ELCA advocacy and work as a public ally engaged church. The group that writes the statement seeks participation from congregations at each stage in the process.

This statement is a call to hear new things and explore how matters of justice and sexism intersect with faith.

These are the issues being studied: why do we tend to talk together, how is sexism personal and how are we the body of Christ, what problems do women face and what does justice require, what does economic sexism look like and how can we seek equity, how can we address violence against women and girls, why do images and word for God matter, and how do we challenge the misuse of scripture against women and girls?

Each of these topics is a module planned to be an hour long discussion, questions have been provided and we can select which ones we use. Bible passages are provided as well as stories and illustrations. At the end of the discussion we document our thoughts on a form which is sent to the ELCA research group. August 1, 2017 is the deadline for our responses. Then a draft is written and sent to the churches to have this process repeated.

We will probably need 2 groups to accommodate schedules. If you are interested in this opportunity please let me know. My email is: sfoster570@msn.com or put a note in my church mailbox.

Sally Foster

Example:

Module 4 - Economic Sexism

- Review objective, scripture reading
What are basics we should know about sex and gender discrimination in the workplace and broader economy? - 15 minute discussion
- How are these expressions of personal and social sin? - 10 minute discussion
How can scripture and tradition empower us to resist sexism and gender discrimination? - 15 minute activity
How can Lutheran teaching about vocation help us advocate for justice in our common economic life? - 5 minute discussion
- Closing - 5 minutes

“Out the door” take home sheet to fill out about what you learned, contributed, liked, disliked, thought, should be included or not, bring back to next module.
At the end of all sessions the “out-the-door” sheets will be sent to the ELCA.

This is all presented in workbook format.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/02 Ariel 'Buzz' Kelly
- 11/04 Christopher Knauff
- 11/05 Tanya Nagel
- 11/07 David Knauff
- 11/08 Lynn McDonough
- 11/08 Robert Rigg
- 11/14 Katie McClure
- 11/17 Sherry Davidson
- 11/17 Linda Sabbagh
- 11/19 Shirley Kelly
- 11/20 Mark Bringman
- 11/22 Brooke Claus
- 11/23 Nancy McCormick
- 11/29 Joseph Baysek

Upcoming Events
December 4 – Advent Lessons & Carols
December 10 – A Night in Bethlehem
December 11 – Youth Group SNL

Communion Bread Schedule
November – Kelly Greb
December – Denise Hager



- 11/01 - Matthew & Jeanette Claus – 30 years
- 11/03 – Keith & Valerie Cardinal – 15 years
- 11/05 – Charles & Cheryl Davidson – 39 years
- 11/27 – Robert & Ardyce Rigg – 36 years

November Newsletter

**November
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.

Assisting Ministers

8:00 am	Kelly Greb
10:30 am	Martha Ward

Ushers

8:00 am	Matt Claus
10:30 am	

Communion Assistants

8:00 am	Missy Kramer
10:30 am	Jim Ward

Address service requested

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