

**Announcements for the week of
September 18, 2016
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor's Office Hours: Generally Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9:30-1:00 pm
Wednesdays – 9:30-11:00 am “Coffee Hours” at Mars Brew House
Available other times by appointment.**

Sunday School Rally Day & Commissioning & Blessing of Christian Education Leaders - Today

As we begin a new year of Sunday School today, we recognize at both services during worship those that give their time and abilities to the formation and growth of our children's faith. Also, join us for *breakfast and ice cream between worship services to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School!*

Confirmation Class – 1-3 pm Today

All youth grades 6th -8th are invited to participate in the confirmation program. Parents are asked to come at 2:45 pm to pick them up and receive important information.

Pictures Needed

Calling all photographers and Facebook posters. If you have any pictures of activities and people at St. John over the past year, please email to pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org as soon as you can. We are building the activity pages for our new photo directory.

Congregation Council Meeting – September 20

Due to our photo directory days last week when council would normally meet, council will now meet week this *Tuesday, September 20 at 7 pm.*

October 2 -- Youth Group – First Breakfast – Blessing of Pets

The *youth group* will meet here at St. John for *Food, Fun & Faith at 11:45 am.* Hope to see you there!

First Breakfast and Mission Endowment Celebration on October 2. Join us between services.

On Sunday, October 2 at 1 pm we will hold a Blessing of Pets service in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, whose commemoration is October 4. A short service of blessing of all animals will take place on the front lawn of St. John. Bring your dog, cat, turtle, gerbil, horse or whatever pet you have as we give thanks for how we are blessed by their companionship and ask God's blessing on them. Youth should have your parents bring the pet when you are picked up after *Food, Fun & Faith* that day.

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 history from anywhere you can access the internet. 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 need more information, please see the church Financial Secretary, Christine Dishong.

Donations for Charities

Several items are needed for charities. These are items that you may have around the house and normally just throw away. There is a box under the table in the greeting area for you to place these items if you are able to help.

Here is a list of what is needed:

1. Tabs from pop cans to be given to Ronald McDonald house.
2. Medicine bottles (orange) to be used for the poor in the US and overseas. Pharmaceutical companies send medicines to these areas in bulk so the bottles are needed to give to patients for their medicines.
3. Wine corks – these are given to a man who makes trivets and sells them with all profits going to breast cancer research. His wife died from breast cancer.

Free Stuff

There are some books and activity guides on the table in the greeting area. These were found in the back of a file cabinet and are free for the taking.

Get Help Coping With Loss of a Loved One – Begins October 12

Beginning Wednesday, October 12 these group sessions will be offered for six consecutive weeks from **4:30-6:00 pm** in the **UPMC Cancer Center at UPMC Passavant McCandless, Conference Room**. The group is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. It is recommended that your loss be at least three months prior to the start of the program.

There is no cost for the support group, but registration is required by Friday, October 7. To register, contact Chaplain Ed Lewis (member, pastoral care planning committee meeting) at 412-748-5899. In recognition of the sensitive nature of this group, all information will be kept confidential.

This Week at St. John

Sunday – September 18	Worship Commissioning & Blessing of Teachers Sunday School Rally Day Breakfast/Ice Cream	9:00 am 9:00 am
	Worship Confirmation Class	10:30 am 1:00 pm
Tuesday – September 20	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday – September 21	Music Together Program Brown Bag Bible Study	10:00 am Noon
Sunday – September 25	Worship Sunday School Worship	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am