

December
2017

St. John Lutheran Church



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.

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

Dear friends in Christ,

In this season we pray to Jesus, "Stir up your power and come..." How would you complete this prayer?

When I was a youngster I often did not move as fast as my parents thought I should, or did not complete a task as quickly as they thought I could and inevitably my mother would say in frustration, "*What are you waiting for, Christmas?*"

We have entered into that season of the church year know as Advent. While the secular and commercial world is merrily celebrating Christmas under the mistletoe, sipping eggnog; the Church is still *waiting for Christmas*. The very nature of the Advent season is one of anticipatory waiting. Waiting to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the midst of the people. Waiting for the Christ to come again, waiting for redemption, waiting for peace; waiting...

All this waiting got me thinking. We all do a lot of waiting in life. There are rooms set aside just for waiting and lines to wait in. Waiting for my chance, waiting for others, waiting for news, waiting for a certain date... waiting for the other shoe to drop. What are you really waiting for that you think will bring wholeness and joy to your life?

This Advent season is perhaps a proper time to reflect on those things you may be waiting for. Do you wait with hope or anxiety, eagerness or dread, for something to begin or something to be finished? As a devotional practice, list five or six things that you wait for- it might be health related, things that may need resolved or relationships needing mending. What are those things that you are waiting to happen in your life? In prayer invite Christ to be with you in these waitings and in the midst of actively working toward successful resolution.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power and come O Lord, into all the hurting places of our lives, Come into the voids created by broken relationships: with you, and with others. Fill the empty abyss with wholeness and healing, faith and hope. The joy-filled places with mindfulness of your presence among us through the one whom we await, your son our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A holy time of Advent waiting and a blessed Christmas to each of you,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Christmas Worship Services

Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent - 10:00 am –
Service of Holy Communion.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve - 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm –
Festival Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

Christmas Day – December 25 – 10:00 am –
Service of Holy Communion

Church Decorating

Sunday, December 17 after late worship

If you are able to help decorate the church for Christmas, please stay after the 10:30 am worship service. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 31
8:00 am & 10:30 am



Join us on the 1st Sunday of Christmas for a service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion to celebrate this joyous season.



Wishing all of the St. John congregation and your families a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas season.

Congregational Meeting – December 3

There will be a brief congregational meeting following both worship services on Sunday, December 3. The congregation will be asked to vote on the slate for the **2018 Vestry**.



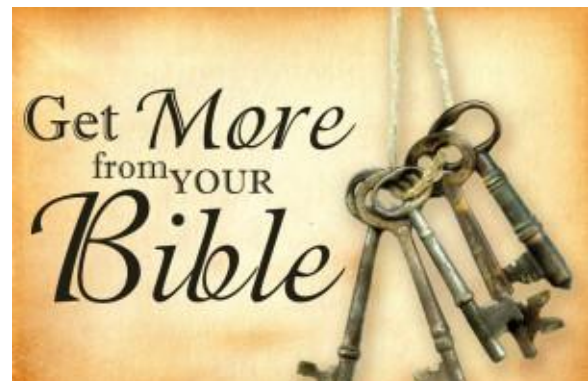
Weekly Spoken Morning Prayer Wednesdays – 11:30 am

Pastor Zimmerman leads a liturgy of Morning Prayer in the sanctuary at 11:30 am on Wednesdays before the brown bag bible study. A feature of this contemplative time of worship is an opportunity to weekly pray together the entire prayer list as found in the bulletin each week, along with other prayer requests.

All are invited to come and participate, whether or not you stay for lunch and bible study. If you have joys or concerns you wish lifted up in prayer, but are unable to attend, please email them to pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org.

Brown Bag Bible Study

Join Pastor Zimmerman on **Wednesdays at noon** for the lunchtime Bible Study. Bring your own lunch. We will meet in the fellowship hall. Currently we are studying the Book of Amos.



Keepsake Christmas

December 2, 2017

10 am and 12:30 pm

at

St. John Lutheran Church

Families will hear a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story from cast members onstage. While listening to the story, each child will make and decorate a manger scene. The story will be followed by cookies and hot chocolate.

Please register online at: stjohnchurchmars.org.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, December 3

Between services

Join us as we come together for good food and good company.

All are welcome!

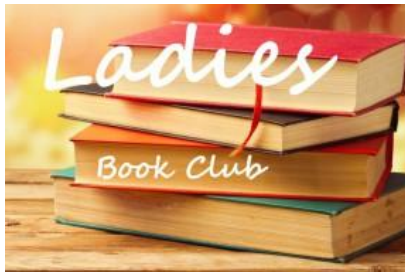
Food Bank Sunday – Second Sunday of each month.

Sunday School Project December 3 Project – Angel Tree



During this holiday season, we will be sponsoring an Angel Tree for Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople. Tags are on the tree in the greeting area. ***Please return your gift by next Sunday, December 8.*** If you have any questions, please contact Denise Hager.

January 7 project will be Welcome Home Baby Kit – Help the women in the Light of Life Mission welcome home their babies with a basket filled with bottles, baby blankets, bibs, baby shampoo, wipes and diapers.



Ladies Book Group December 20 – 3:00 pm

Our next selection for the book group is “Where’d You Go, Bernadette?” by Maria Semple. This book is quite different from our usual choices and is quoted by the New York Times as “divinely funny.” We will meet ***December 20 at 3 pm at the home of Denise Hager.***

Quilting Group December 11 – 6:00 pm

Are you interested in quilting or would you like to learn? Our group meets on the second Monday of each month. The quilts made by the group are sent to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed. If you are interested or would like to know more, join us!



December 3 Assist with Bowling League at St. John Specialty Care Center – meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.
Don't forget Lifelong Learning with Ms. Tully on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on December 26 for the Christmas holiday.



- 12/01 Dominic Cardinal
- 12/10 Wanda Weidner
- 12/11 Serafina Julio
- 12/12 Beth McElhinny
- 12/13 Reed McDonough
- 12/18 Tess Bielo
- 12/24 Christine Dishong
- 12/25 Jim Hager

Upcoming Events
Annual Meeting – January 21

Communion Bread Schedule
 December – Denise Hager
 January - TBD
Counters for December
 Denise Hager & Sally Foster

**December
Worship Helpers**

Assisting Minister
 8:00 am Christine Dishong
 10:30 am Sally Foster

Usher
 8:00 am Robert Dishong
 10:30 am John Fritz

Communion Assistants
 8:00 am
 10:30 am Denise Hager

Acolyte
 8:00 am Danielle Dishong

December Newsletter

Address service requested

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 MARS, PA 16046