

July - August
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 early June I attended, along with Clarence and Marlene Strabel, the annual Southwestern PA Synod Assembly held at California University of Pennsylvania. We heard the reports of the Church and local Lutheran agencies, participated in wonderful worship, and enjoyed fellowship with both friends and new acquaintances ...and more! We also had the opportunity to listen to our engaging keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Edwin van Driel, Associate Professor of Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I would like to share with you a few thoughts that he shared.

He opened with a reading from Ephesians 2 that I quote in part for the sake of space:

"Remember that you were at that time without Christ, ... But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

To paraphrase Dr. van Driel, we use a lot of verbs about our life in the church. "We are," such as, "we are a member", "We will", or "We like" or "We found". All verbs that are describing a voluntary organization we have joined at our will, like any other group. But scripture points to a different understanding of church; where it is not about what "we" are doing but what God is doing, where Christ is at work. One phrase in particular from the presentation stayed with me: "Church is where God is gathering people." Not where we come, but where God has brought us, gathered us in. Where God is active. That is what Holy Baptism is all about. God has claimed and gathered us as the church together. As members of the household of God, through God's work in Christ we are sent to participate in what God is up to around us.

Church is not another activity to participate in, to fit into your already busy schedule; it is who we have been formed into together, joined together and growing in God, for God. What does God have in mind? How can we be a part of it in our daily life?

The below prayer for the mission of the church (found on page 75 in the ELW) reminds us it is not "We", but our participation in what God is up to.

"Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



**St. John Outdoor Service
and
Church Picnic
Sunday, July 16 – 9:00 am**



Our annual outdoor service and church picnic will be on **Sunday, July 16 at 9:00 am at Adams Twp. Community Park**. Service is at 9:00 am followed by a picnic. Food, drink, games and plenty of fun for all!

The cost for the picnic is: Adults & children 10 and up - \$5.00; Children ages 3-9 - \$2.50; Age 2 and under - Free.



**Vacation Bible School
July 10-14, 2017 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Mars United Presbyterian Church**

Get ready to dive into a life-changing adventure that leads kids deeper into God's love. Your kids won't want to miss this adventure! Secure their place by registering online at www.mars-up.org. or call 724-625-1365. Registration forms are also available in the greeting area at St. John Lutheran Church.



**Lutheran Day at Kennywood
July 25, 2017**

Tickets are \$23. Proceeds from sales will go to ELCA World Hunger. 11:30 am Welcome and Morning Prayer at Log Jammer Pavilion.

Order form/sign-up sheet will be available on table in greeting area. Tickets also may be used on the following dates: **July 6, 7, 17, 24, 26 and August 8.**

Summer Service Projects for Kids

Wondering what your kids will do now that school is out? Here are a few ideas from an article by Molly Culbertson in the June 2017 issue of Thrivent.

Organize a rummage sale or set up a lemonade stand. Let the kids choose a charity to receive the proceeds.

Donate gently used books or toys. Your kids could donate to a local library, children's hospital or a children's shelter.

Clean up the world around you. Gather together trash bags, gloves, and hand sanitizer and pick up litter in your neighborhood or in a park. You can talk to your kids about the importance of taking care of God's world.

Make gift-giving an act of charity. Instead of buying a gift for someone, bring food to a local pantry in honor of the person.

Inspire your kids at every age

K-through 5th graders: Weed a neighbor's garden; make greeting cards for residents of a senior center.

6th through 8th graders: Make dog treats to donate to a local animal shelter.

9th through 12th graders: Start a school supply drive to collect donations for kids in need in your community.



Walk to Wittenberg

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, join us on a journey of faith from June 2017 – June 2018. This officially began on June 16, but you may still sign up.

Congregations are invited to team up to walk (or run, bike, swim, etc.) 4, 203 miles over the year, the equivalent of the distance from Pittsburgh to Wittenberg, Germany. Wittenberg is the home of Castle Church where Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door.

There is a sign-up sheet and additional information in the greeting area.

Summer Reminders

There will be one worship service at **9:00 am on Sundays** throughout the summer.

Food Bank Sunday is the second Sunday of each month.





Lutherlyn Summer Camps

My Grown-up and Me (Ages 3-6) –

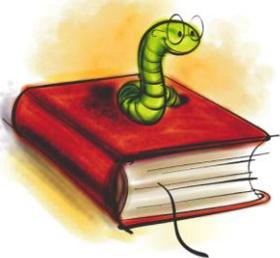
Tuesday, July 11 or Thursday, July 13, 2017 - \$50 for 1 adult & 1 child (\$10 each additional person.

Small Fry Days (1st – 3rd graders) – *Come once or multiple days. 10am-4pm each day June 29, 30, July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4, 2017.*

Week Long Day Camp – (1st- 6th graders)
8:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday-Friday – July 3-7, 2017.

Grown-up Camp – *August 28-30, 2017. \$150 per person. 21 and older. All the fun of kid camp with relaxation, fellowship and ‘extras’ for adults. Price includes all meals, programs, snacks and lodging. To register for any of these programs or if you have questions, call 724-865-2161 or email deb@lutherlyn.com.*

See the flyers on the bulletin board or Pastor Zimmerman for more information.



Ladies Book Group

July 19 & August 16 – 7:00-8:00 pm

The Ladies Book Club is currently reading “Sensible Shoes” by Sharon Garlough Brown. It follows four women who meet at a retreat center and begin a spiritual journey as their lives are interwoven. Meetings are in the ‘living room’ section of the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us, the book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Quilting Group

July 10 & August 7 – 6:00 pm

Are you interested in quilting or would you like to learn? Our group meets on the second Monday of each month at St. John. If you would like to know more, join us!



Senior Farmer's Market Program

The Butler County Area Agency on Aging will provide each eligible senior with \$20 to purchase fresh PA-grown fruits and vegetables from participating local farm markets. You must be at least 60 years of age (by 12/31/17) and live independently.

See community bulletin board in entrance area for income guidelines and voucher distribution dates and locations.

Eligibility requirements are: 60 years of age or more – resident of Butler County – Live independently (no long-term care facility)
Income limits:
One person household - \$22,311
Two person household - \$30,004

BUDGET UPDATE – 5/31/2017

The annual expense budget for 2017 is \$165,621. As of 5/31/2017 budgeted expense was \$69,009 and actual expense was \$73,030. Actual expense exceeded budget by \$4,021. This is due to expenses for programs and events that occur mostly in the first part of the year.

See below for income received and expenses paid by month through the end of May. Overall, expense exceeded income by \$1,792. Income includes a one-time transfer from a dormant account into the General fund.

INCOME			
2017 YTD 5/31/2017			
Month	General	Earmarked	Total Income
January	\$ 12,150.04	\$ 1,449.57	\$ 13,599.61
February	\$ 13,326.20	\$ 1,517.33	\$ 14,843.53
March	\$ 9,814.03	\$ 3,189.95	\$ 13,003.98
April	\$ 13,748.99	\$ 2,046.08	\$ 15,795.07
May	\$ 12,298.07	\$ 1,698.38	\$ 13,996.45
YTD INCOME	\$ 61,337.33	\$ 9,901.31	\$ 71,238.64
EXPENSE			
Month	General	Earmarked	Total Expense
January	\$ 13,193.07	\$ 1,617.00	\$ 14,810.07
February	\$ 10,597.50	\$ 2,016.20	\$ 12,613.70
March	\$ 14,270.60	\$ 941.35	\$ 15,211.95
April	\$ 14,131.12	\$ 1,614.76	\$ 15,745.88
May	\$ 12,313.68	\$ 2,334.90	\$ 14,648.58
YTD EXPENSE	\$ 64,505.97	\$ 8,524.21	\$ 73,030.18
INCOME - EXPENSE	\$ (3,168.64)	\$ 1,377.10	\$ (1,791.54)

Be a 'Blessing' for the World

"I will bless you . . . , so that you will be a blessing" (Gen. 12:2). The Lord blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing. How did He bless Abraham? He promised that from His seed would come the savior of the nations. And Abraham believed that promise, trusted that the Lord would provide it just as He had promised. Thus, everything Abraham did was colored by that promise. He willingly gave of himself and his household in service to the Lord in view of that promise.

Our Father in heaven has richly blessed us. Not only has He given us everything that we need to support this body and life, but He has also provided, that promised seed in His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the savior of the nations. He is the redeemer of the world. He is the one who has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Just as we are richly blessed, we are also thereby freed to be a blessing. Since God has endowed us with His gifts, we are set to endow others. Thus, we give of the blessings we have received so that others may be blessed. We do this in our homes, our communities, and our churches. We press the blessings God has lavished upon us in service to those around us. We use our time, our talents, and our treasures to be a blessing even as they have been a blessing to us.

The Lord blesses us. And He enlists us to be a blessing to others. So, whenever you put that envelope in the collection plate, when you set out to serve at the local food pantry, when you sit down to help your kids with homework, think of this: The Lord has blessed you, so that you will be a blessing.

From the Stewardship Ministry of the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod. Used by permission.



Kid's Club – July 21 & August 18

Come and join us!

Our Kid's Club program at St. John is for kids age 4-10 (or if they attend Sunday School). This month we will meet **on Friday evening, June 30 from 6:30-8:00 pm.** We will have music, stories, games, free play, a craft to take home and a snack. Come and join us! If you have any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel, Sally Foster or Denise Hager.

July & August Birthdays & Anniversaries

07/06 Christopher Passione
07/12 Kathleen Schnelle
07/12 Victoria Lydon
07/13 Christopher Julio
07/13 Marcia Shepard
07/14 Katie Richards
07/15 Davena Hopson
07/19 Jean Claus
07/19 Larry McDonough
07/20 June Siembieda
07/20 Luca Julio
07/22 Jeff Ward
07/26 Chester Carbo
07/28 George Leikauf
07/30 Bob Dishong



08/02 Emma Niklewicz
08/05 Leona Wills
08/05 Denise Hager
08/06 Gabrielle Baysek
08/08 Anne Olescyski
08/08 Fritz Bielo
08/13 Gretchen Baysek
08/14 Laura Greb
08/14 Ava Niklewicz
08/16 Rylee McDonald
08/17 Todd Niklewicz
08/17 Kayla Julio
08/24 Beverly Crislip
08/29 Ralph Storm
08/29 Paulina Scherrer



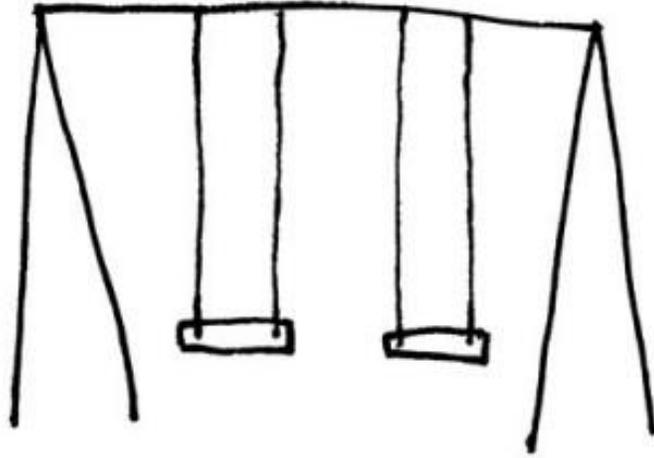
07/12 Dave & Cindy Knauff - 41 yrs.
07/14 Todd & Katie Niklewicz – 10 yrs.
07/20 Chester & Freida Carbo – 55 yrs.
07/21 Larry & Amy Werner – 38 yrs.
07/23 Nick & Tatiana Brower – 13 yrs.

08/04 George & Jan Leikauf – 42 yrs.
08/25 John & Susan Fritz – 38 yrs.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations and best wishes to the Niklewicz family on the birth of their daughter, **Ella Kay**, on May 24, 2017. Best wishes also to the grandparents, Amy & Larry Werner.





don't forget to play

Enjoy your summer!





Communion Bread Schedule

July/August – Sally Foster

Counters for July

Sally Foster & Ruth Ann Tully

Counters for August

Missy Kramer & Denise Hager

July/August

Worship Helpers

Please check the bulletin board in the church office for the new sign-up sheet for all worship helpers for each Sunday for the remainder of the year.

JULY

Assisting Minister

9:00 am Kelly Greb

Usher

9:00 am

Communion Assistants

9:00 am Laura Greb

AUGUST

Assisting Minister

9:00 am Missy Kramer

Celebrate the 4th of July in Mars!

Food, music and activities for the whole family.

Parade begins at 5 pm.
Fireworks at dusk.

July/August Newsletter

Address service requested

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