

June  
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](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Church Office: (724) 625-1830  
Office email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Pastor Bob's email: [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

Dear friends in Christ,

Recently, in my reading and study, I was reacquainted with the story of Queen Esther in the Bible. This Jewish woman, who by a series of circumstances was made queen, was placed in the right place at the right time to save the lives of the Jewish people exiled in Babylon. In the midst of a crisis, fellow Jew and mentor Mordecai urged her to take action with the words, "*Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.*" (Esther 4:14)

This familiar bible story caught my attention again as I began thinking of the implications of the phrase, "for just such a time as this." When is, "a time such as this"? Is it not always the present? A time that is upon us now, as each day is an opportunity to do our best.

In baptism we daily rise up to new life each day. Born anew, we can proclaim each day that "this is the day the Lord has made" and rejoice! Each day, as we look out with eyes of faith at the great need that surrounds us, can we also see that each day is an opportunity to live out our faith in daily life; that we are where we are "for just such a time as this?" To be there for our spouse, children, grandchildren or parents, for the neighbor that needs help with yard work or the woman struggling with groceries and a cane in the supermarket parking lot. A time such as this to step up and volunteer to serve the community, or a time to stay home and strengthen relationships.

We cannot live for past yesterdays or possible tomorrows, but we can live fully into each today we have been given, living out our faith in love for just such a time as this, trusting in God to provide grace sufficient for our needs. What are the needs you see around you now? What are the pressing concerns you confront each day? What do you need to face a time such as this?

As I work with our mission planning task force, these are the questions that St. John faces as well. What are the needs and concerns in the congregation and around us in the community? How can we be Christ's church together to others in a meaningful way in this particular place in this particular time? After spending time listening to God through bible study these past months, the task force will be having conversations this summer with community leaders and in the fall with the congregation to gain different perspectives on what the immediate needs are in this community. As the challenges and opportunities to serve and share are discerned, perhaps we will find that St. John has been placed here for *just such a time as this.*

Summer blessings,  
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

## **You're Invited:**

### **Joint Lutheran and Catholic 500 Year Commemoration Comes to Us on June 29**

**An Evening of Witness and Thanksgiving – June 29, 2017 – 7:00 pm**

**St. Kilian Roman Catholic Church, Mars**

**Theme: TESTIMONIAL AND THANKSGIVING**

From a letter from the region's bishops:

Five centuries ago a movement known as the “Reformation” sought to bring reform to the Church. Tragically, one of the results of the Reformation was division among the followers of Jesus Christ. Happily, thru the grace of God, in the last 50 years, after ongoing official conversations between the theologians of our churches, we are enjoying growth in reconciliation, though we are not yet able to share together the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar.

As the Catholic and Lutheran bishops of southwestern Pennsylvania, we invite you to join us as we celebrate our growing unity in Jesus Christ. Together we commit ourselves, along with the people of our churches, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. During this year of commemoration, we invite you to join us in allowing the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform us for a more visible unity through prayer, acts of mercy and common pursuit of peace with justice.

We, your bishops, who share a common commitment to a more visible unity as the body of Christ in the world, pledge our time, mutual prayers and actions in witness and service in this year of commemoration of the Reformation. We invite you to join us “on the way!” Become part of the ongoing conversations by joining us on Facebook: Lutherans and Catholics on the Way in Southwestern Pennsylvania!

The Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow  
Bishop, SWPA Synod,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of the Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Pittsburgh

The Most Reverend William C. Skurla  
Metropolitan of the Byzantine Catholic  
Archeparchy of the Pittsburgh

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic  
Bishop of the Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Greensburg

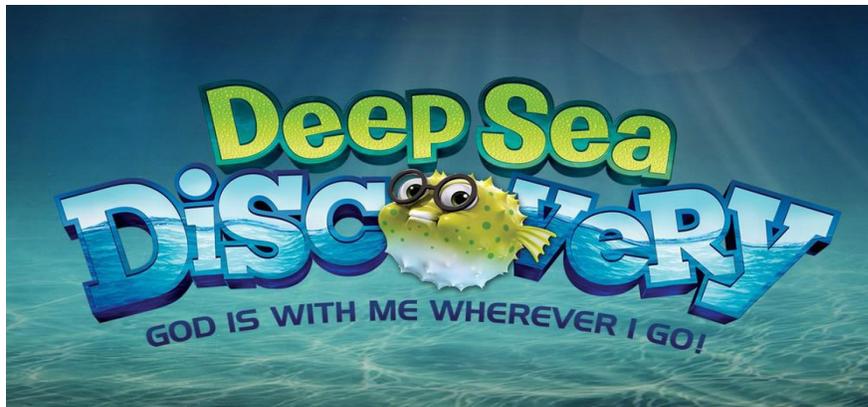


**St. John Outdoor Service  
and  
Church Picnic  
Sunday, July 16 – 9:00 am**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

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!



**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](http://www.mars-up.org). or call 724-625-1365. Registration forms are also available in the greeting area at St. John Lutheran Church.

**Summer Reminders**

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

**Noon Bible Study** will not meet for the summer months, but will resume in the fall.

**Pastor Robert Rigg – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination**

Pastor Robert Rigg who served at St. John from 1981 to 2007 will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination at the Synod Assembly in June. If you would like to send congratulatory wishes to Pastor Rigg his address is: 1467 River Road, Cooksburg, PA 16217.

## Jacob Gordon – Resignation

As you may already know, Jacob submitted his resignation as Director of Music Ministries to the congregation council at the May 9 meeting. His resignation was accepted with regret. He will be relocating to be closer to his parents in Virginia.

Jacob has served St. John from January 2010 to March 2013 and again from October 2014 until now. During his tenure he has maintained a high standard of music in worship, brought in talented musicians to serve as accompanists and developed a choir. He has also actively participated in the life of the congregation, becoming a member in 2016.

Jacob's last Sunday service will be on June 25. He will be missed as a friend, colleague, and parishioner. We wish him Godspeed and pray for safe travels and joy in his future.



Scripture calls the church to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the sick as Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:31-46) and describes how the early church cared for one another and "distributed

to each as any had need." (Act 2:45), so that there was not a needy person among them. (Acts 4:35) It is consistent with our call to be the people of God in the place to create a means that St. John can assist those in our congregation and community that are in need. Local agencies are very effective at helping in certain circumstances but not all, and it seems appropriate to have a mechanism to do that when other avenues fail.

The "**Good Samaritan Fund**" is sustained by special designated giving specifically to the fund. No general funds from the congregation will be used, so it is dependent on your needed special contributions.

This special fund provides an immediate means to assist financially or provide resources while maintaining essential confidentiality for those in need. Only the pastor and treasurer of the congregation will know who the recipient of assistance is. If you wish to give an offering to help establish this fund giving, please designate that on the memo line of a check.

## Lutheran Senior Life St. John Community Welcomes New Executive Director

Lutheran Senior Life has named David Gritzer as the new Executive Director of St. John Community. Gritzer has a deep professional background in long term care and senior living, having served as CEO of the Jewish Association on Aging; administrator for the nursing home formerly known as Friendship Ridge; and serving at an assisted living community in California. He has been aware of the great reputation and long-standing positive history of St. John.

To date, Gritzer has spent much of his time meeting the residents and staff, which he feels is key to the success of the St. John Community.

Mr. Gritzer said, "I am committed to supporting our staff and the residents we serve so we can continue providing the highest quality of services possible to those on the St. John campus, while ensuring our organization is an integral part of the surrounding community."



### 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 (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – (1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:deb@lutherlyn.com).

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



### **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***



**Quilting Group  
June 12 – 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 are interested or would like to know more, join us!

**Ladies Book Group  
June 7 – 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.

We meet to discuss the book and share our insights and learn from each other, and we laugh, which is equally good for the soul! 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.



**Kid’s Club – June 30**

**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.

**Youth Group Donut Pickup  
Sunday, June 4, 2017**

If you ordered donuts from the Youth Group they will be available for pickup on Sunday, June 4.

Also, for the summer months we will have donuts in the greeting area the first Sunday of each month instead of a Fellowship Breakfast.



**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.



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 06/05 Gerald Brunson
- 06/05 Bill Schulz
- 06/06 Henry Ford
- 06/08 Cindy Knauff
- 06/12 Janet Senka
- 06/13 Laura Gold
- 06/14 Mason Adams
- 06/21 Francis Kratz
- 06/21 Katie Niklewicz
- 06/24 Reed Richards
- 06/26 Alaina Nagel
- 06/28 Abigail Cardinal
- 06/28 Henrietta Murray
- 06/29 Gabriella Julio

**Looking Ahead**

- July 10-14 – VBS @ Mars UP
- July 16 – Church Picnic
- July 25 – Lutheran Day @ Kennywood

**Communion Bread Schedule**

- June – Sally Foster
- July - TBD
- Counters for June**
- Cindy Knauff & Valerie Cardinal



- 06/07 - Steve & Kathleen Schnelle - 32 yrs.
- 06/08 - Ariel & Shirley Kelly - 58 yrs.
- 06/11 - Jamie & Erin Weaver - 12 yrs.
- 06/17 - Lawrence & Lynn McDonough - 28 yrs.
- 06/26 - Bill & Karen Schulz – 53 yrs.
- 06/29 - Henry & Janet Ford – 54 yrs.

**June**

**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.

**Assisting Minister**

9:00 am Christine Dishong

**Usher**

9:00 am Bob Dishong

**Communion Assistants**

9:00 am Valerie Cardinal

**Acolyte**

9:00 am Danielle Dishong



Address service requested

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