

September
2018

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
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Mars, PA 16046

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Pastor Bob's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

Dear friends in Christ,

Fall is here; the lazy days of summer are quickly fading away as everyday life becomes busier. Students are going back to school, many beginning new chapters in life like starting school for the first time, moving up to middle, intermediate or high school, or even beginning college in a place far away. These are ventures into something new and different.

As the program year begins at St. John we too are entering a busy time as Sunday School, confirmation class, service opportunities, fellowship meals, bible study and more begin. We will also be venturing in some new directions. The Corn Roast on September 1st is something new, as is our participating in G.R.O.W. a weekly multigenerational program with other local congregations. The Mission Planning Task Force is putting the finishing touches on their presentation in October, sharing some ideas for other new ways to be Church together in this place. The planning task force is focusing efforts on ways to grow closer to God, closer as a congregation together, and closer to the community.

I am currently reading an interesting book that describes the church today using examples from the Lewis and Clark expedition seeking a northwest passage (*Canoeing the Mountains* by Todd Bolsinger). I will share more from this book at a later time, but the main point is the need for the church to be willing to venture in new uncharted directions with a sense of adventure.

As we get involved with programs and activities and try new things I recall the words of St. Augustine that "to seek God is the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement." May we embark this fall on a great adventure seeking God in the midst of our life together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

**Morning Prayer - Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study
Wednesdays**

We will resume our schedule *beginning Wednesday, September 5*. Morning Prayer will begin at 11:30 am; Brown Bag Lunch at Noon; and Bible Study at 12:30 pm
If you plan to come for lunch, please bring your own "brown bag" lunch. Hope to see you there!



St. John Corn Roast

**Saturday, September 1, 2018
4:00 – 6:00 pm**



Food – Fun – Games

Something for everyone!

Join us for a festive day to welcome the harvest season and to come together as a community. There will be plenty of food, games and more for all!

Proceeds benefit St. John Lutheran Church Ministries.



**Sunday, September 9, 2018 – 9:00 am
Ice Cream Breakfast**

Join us for our traditional Ice Cream Breakfast on Sunday, September 9 to kick-off the new Sunday School year and show support for our children, teachers and helpers. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year!

Member Needs Assistance

A member of our congregation is in severe financial difficulty and needs our help to keep the gas on as fall approaches. To assist our sibling in Christ, we will be using the funds collected at the Rally Day Breakfast on September 9 to assist in paying the \$870.00 owed to Peoples Gas to prevent the termination of service. If you care to give in advance of the breakfast, please indicate the gift is for "gas bill help." Your generous giving to this one-time special need is appreciated.



WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. SEPTEMBER 26TH – NOVEMBER 21ST
Tentatively to be held at Old Union Presbyterian Church, 200 Union Church Rd, Mars

This fall St. John will team up with our brothers and sisters from Valencia Presbyterian and Old Union Presbyterian Churches to be part of a weekly multigenerational evening fellowship and education opportunity called **G.R.O.W.** for adults and children.

G.R.O.W. is a way for individuals to get "renewed" and for families to stay connected with God and with each other in the midst of the weekly busyness.

Each Wednesday evening begins with a family style meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a time of Music and Worship and from 7-8 there are classes and activities for all from preschool to adults. The pastors from all three congregations will take turns leading the adult group. If you come for the meal, a suggested donation of \$5 per person is requested (*family max of \$15*) to cover the cost of the food.

Save the Date!



For Youth and Adults: World Vision Service Day- 9 am to noon, October 27th

At World Vision's Pittsburgh Global Distribution Center for gifts-in-kind (GIK), donated products are sorted, processed, and prepared for domestic and international distribution. Since 1990, World Vision's GIK program has distributed high-quality donations valued at \$3.0 billion, including medical supplies, clothes and shoes, school supplies, personal care products, and other needed items. The 40,000-square-foot center in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, enables World Vision to process and ship more donated product more efficiently. Volunteers are integral to the work in Pittsburgh, with over 7,500 volunteers working in the facility every year.

For three years our youth have spent a day sorting and packing items to be sent throughout the world at the distribution center in Sewickley. This October 27th they invite everyone to join with them in this morning of service. In October there will be a sign up sheet for those able to help but mark your calendars today!

Music Together Program Beginning Tuesday, September 11- 10 am

This program is for early childhood through age 5 and their parents/caregivers.

Fall session will run from September 11 through November 27. Join us on **Tuesday, September 11 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.** We will continue each Tuesday if enough register. You may register online at: <http://marylynnebennettstudio.weebly.com/music-together-registration.html>, email at mlobie1@gmail.com or 412-436-9579.

Quilting Group – September 10 – 6 pm



Use your talent or learn a new one! We are always looking for new sewers, regardless of experience. Whether you are a beginner or a novice you are welcome to join us as we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We are in need of blankets for batting and sheets for backing if you would like to donate these items it will be much appreciated.



Kid's Club September 28, 2018 – 6:30-8:00 pm

Our Kid's Club program at St. John is for kids age 4-10 (or if they attend Sunday School). We will have music, stories, games, free play, a craft to take home and the all important snack! Join us as we begin our fall season of Kid's Club. Any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel.

Ladies Book Group September 19 – 3 pm



We are currently reading "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman. This is an historical novel that takes place after King Solomon built the second Temple in Jerusalem, and the events as 900 Jews held out against the Roman armies on Masada.

"Yes, Lord!" Responding to God with My Life

Saturday – September 15
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church
517 Sangree Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Special Guest Speaker
The Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert

Registration: \$15 per person includes taking an online personal gifts inventory, workshop and lunch.



Everyone, young and young at heart come celebrate who you are! Find out how you can best live your life in service to God and others.

Additional information available on the flyer posted in the greeting area.

You may register online at www.bhlc.org.

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.



September Birthdays

- 09/02 Nicholas Claus Jr.
- 09/04 Larry Werner
- 09/06 Nicholas Claus
- 09/09 Angelina Passione
- 09/09 Sally Foster
- 09/10 Winifred Stefko
- 09/13 Clarence Strabel
- 09/15 Jamie Weaver
- 09/17 Kelly Greb
- 09/26 Geena Provenzano
- 09/27 Susan Fritz
- 09/27 Ray Werner
- 09/29 Danielle Dishong
- 09/30 Matt Claus

Upcoming Events
 Sept. 1 – Corn Roast
 Sept. 9 – Rally Day
 Sept. 28 – Kids Club resumes
 Oct. 27 – World Vision Day



9/16 – Amber & Michael Zalewsky – 2 yrs.
 9/29 – William & Kelly Greb – 17 yrs.

September Newsletter

**September
Worship Helpers**

Assisting Minister

8:00 am Clarence Strabel
 10:30 am Martha Ward

Usher

8:00 am
 10:30 am Keith Cardinal

Communion Bread Schedule

September – Carolyn
 Zimmerman

Counters for September

Valerie Cardinal & Tanya Nagel

Address service requested

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