

November  
2018

# St. John Lutheran Church



St. John Lutheran Church  
PO Box 411  
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Mars, PA 16046

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## 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.*

## For All the Grateful Reforming Saints

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this I am in the midst of getting ready for Reformation Sunday, planning for All Saints Sunday and the completion of this year's stewardship emphasis with Gratitude Sunday on November 4, and our Celebration/Commitment Sunday at our one 10:00 A.M. worship service on November 11<sup>th</sup> with special guest preacher the Reverend Peter Asplin, one of the SWPA Synod's Assistants to the Bishop. As you might imagine my head is awl with each of these celebrations as I move back and forth from one thing to another. In the mix of this liturgical mash-up though, I cannot help but make connections between the three; Gratitude, Reformation, and Saints!

The Reformation celebrates Martin Luther's understanding that we are made right with God, not by what we do but by trust in what God has already done in and through Christ. It is through this gift of grace alone that in faith our sins are covered by the righteousness of Christ, and can be counted among the saints even though we still are sinners. For this reason our confessions call the Church the "assembly of the SAINTS." It is through this free gift we are made holy and righteous before God. How can there be any other response but GRATITUDE? Thank you Jesus!

In faith we have been given a new life in Christ, reborn as Children of God. Martin Luther tells us in the catechism that in Holy Baptism, "daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God." We are a church of the resurrection, of renewal, of ongoing RE-FORMATION. May we daily recall with gratitude all God has given us, and as daily we go forth as saints of God continually finding new ways to faithfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Bob Zimmerman*

## **Stewardship of our money**

*And Jesus said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."--Luke 12:15*

Jesus often uses words of caution when teaching about money. Jesus warns us of money's power to capture our souls and turn us from loving God first and most, and then our neighbors as ourselves.

Because we North Americans live in a wealthy culture, the temptation to love money more than God and neighbor may be worse than it was for the folks of Jesus' time. So, we need to take Jesus' warnings to heart and be sure to keep money in its proper place. Here are some ideas:

**Develop gratitude:** Be happy for (and with) what you have. Dwell on your blessings rather than your wants. Constantly entertaining thoughts of your unfilled desires leads to scarcity thinking and unhappiness.

**Celebrate sufficiency:** Learn to live on what you earn. Excessive debt corrodes our wellbeing by causing us stress and hunger for more. Strive to live without credit cards and make choices to help your income match expenses.

**Embrace generosity:** Our culture tells us that the more we have the happier we will be, but that's really not so -- once we have enough to meet our true needs. Miserly people tend to be miserable no matter how much they have, while generous people tend to be happy even if they have modest means. Giving generously is a spiritual discipline that breaks the power that money has to control us.

Good stewardship of our money helps us avoid the traps that Jesus warns about. Stewardship means managing our wealth rather than letting it manage us. Free from money's traps and lures and lies, we are free to love God first and then our neighbor as ourselves.

*--Rob Blezard*

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### **Giving in Gratitude Commitment Sunday & Brief Congregational Meeting November 11, 2018**

One service only at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 11. A brief congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship to vote on three possibilities for use of a significant donation that has been bequeathed to St. John. Please plan to attend and be sure to stay for the luncheon to follow.



**WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

*To be held at Old Union Presbyterian Church, 200 Union Church Rd, Mars*

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.

**G.R.O.W.** Sessions will continue through November 21 when we will conclude with a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service.

*A Blue Christmas*  
*Community Worship*  
**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.**  
St. John Lutheran Church

While Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Blue Christmas service provides a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas.

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

**Morning Prayer and Bible Study**

Morning Prayer at 11:30 am on Wednesdays, with a brown bag lunch at noon, followed by Bible Study at 12:30 pm.

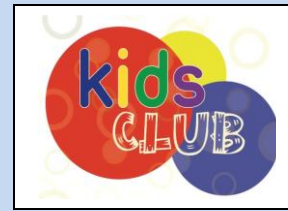
There will not be a session on November 7, but we will resume on Wednesday November 14.

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.



**Fall Clean Up Day**  
**Saturday, November 3 – 8:00 am**

If you are able to help clean up the church grounds on this day, your help will be greatly appreciated.



**Kid's Club**  
**November 30, 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! Any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel.

**Quilting Group – November 12 – 6 pm**



We will continue to meet at Cindy Knauff's house – 469 Browns Hill Rd., Valencia.

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.

**Ladies Book Group**  
**November 14 – 3 pm**



We will be finishing our current book this month. **No meeting in December**, we will begin a new book in January.



Thanks to everyone who sent cards, provided reading material, visited at Passavant Hospital or at my home, provided dinner, but most importantly, prayers for my recovery. I appreciate your thoughtfulness at this time and always.

Ruth Ann Tully



**Youth Group**  
**Bowling at SJSCC**  
**Saturday – November 3**

Meet in the lobby of the SJSCC at 1:45 pm.





**November Birthdays**

- 11/02 Ariel Kelly
- 11/04 Christopher Knauff
- 11/05 Tanya Nagel
- 11/07 David Knauff
- 11/14 Katie McClure
- 11/17 Cheryl Davidson
- 11/17 Linda Sabbagh
- 11/19 Shirley Kelly
- 11/22 Brooke Claus
- 11/23 Nancy McCormick
- 11/29 Joseph Baysek

**Upcoming Events**  
 Dec. 1 – Pancake Breakfast  
 Dec. 1 – Youth Group @ SJSCC  
 Dec. 9 – Christmas Program  
 Dec. 15 – Blue Christmas Worship

  
 11/01 – Matthew & Jeannette Claus – 32 yrs.  
 11/03 – Keith & Valerie Cardinal – 17 yrs.  
 11/05 – Charles & Cheryl Davidson – 41 yrs.

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
 November, December  
 Denise Hager  
  
**Counters for November**  
 Kelly Greb & Anne Olescyski

**November  
Worship Helpers**

**Assisting Minister**  
 8:00 am Kelly Greb  
 10:30 am Martha Ward

**Usher**  
 8:00 am Larry Werner  
 10:30

# November Newsletter

Address service requested

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