

April
2019

St. John Lutheran Church



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

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Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

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.



Dear friends in Christ,

At the writing of this we are in the middle of Lent as we have a late Easter this year. By April 21st when Easter morning appears so will have many of our spring flowers. This "springing" forth of new life is a wonderful image of Easter resurrection as we move from the cold dreary dead of winter to a vibrant and warm summer. But, this past Sunday I saw in the cold and drab yard a touch of golden yellow, as a crocus bloom peeked out from under the leaves. That little golden flower in the midst of bleak surroundings made me think of how Sundays during Lent (actually year-round) are "Little Easters." Every Sunday of the year is a celebration of the joyous Easter event, the victory over sin and death. This weekly glimpse of joy is especially worthwhile to note during Lent. On Ash Wednesday and through Lent we hear, "all are dust, born in sin, all die" Easter and every Sunday announce, "In Christ all are made alive!"

We are gathered as resurrection people in remembrance and hope. In these forty days the Sundays in Lent offer a time of intentional promise and renewal. But the everyday weekly life can be burdensome and bleak, filled with busyness and the cultural voice "you are not enough." On Sunday is found the year-round certain hope that we can rest in Christ's accomplishments, not ours.

Our Christian faith is based on the faithfulness of this resurrection promise; not on how good we are, moral codes or anything else we can do. Through the cross and the empty tomb we have been given grace, and life. As St. Paul writes, "if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain...." (1 Corinthians 15:14)

The new life of resurrection is why we are gathered; it is why we worship together, it is why we are the church.

Lenten Blessings and Resurrection Joy!
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Holy Week Services at St. John

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 14 – 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 18 – 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 19 – 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil – April 20 – 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday – April 21 – 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Note: There will be a Soup Lunch and Good Friday Service at Noon at Mars U.P. Church

Lenten Wednesday Afternoon Worship, Soup Lunch & Study Continues through April 10.

During Lent, there will be a weekly Noon time Worship each Wednesday that will begin at noon with a simple soup lunch to follow. Those able to remain will have the opportunity to participate in a five-week study on our baptismal vocation as children of God, and the promises made in baptism.

On Wednesday, April 17, we will resume our 11:30 Morning Prayer/Noon Brown Bag Lunch and 12:30 pm Bible Study.



Live Online Bible Study Continues Through April 10

Our interactive live online video bible study continues through April 10 so that you can participate from the convenience and comfort of your home. This will take place on Wednesday evenings during Lent, as we look at our baptismal vocation as children of God and the five promises made in baptism (in conjunction with the daytime Lenten study). Time is 7:30 pm.

To be a part of the group, you will need to have an Internet connection and download some free software for a free app if you are using a phone or tablet.

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

Family Game Night
Saturday, April 6
3:00-7:00 pm

Join us for a night of fun and games! Bring your favorite game to play. All ages welcome! \$5 donation per person towards pizza and ice cream sundae bar.

Any excess funds will be donated to the Sunday School collection for the Hillman Cancer Center.



Youth & Family
Pizza & Bowling
April 28 at Mystic Lanes



Join us for a pizza lunch after late service on April 28, followed by bowling at Mystic Lanes on Route 8. Join us for a fun afternoon!

Ladies Tea
April 27, 2019 - Noon - 2:00 pm



Our annual Ladies Tea will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 27. Cost is \$15 per person and tickets are available from the Deacons. Join us as we kick off Spring in style!

Camp Blast at Lutherlyn
May 11, 2019
11am-4:30 pm



Saturday – April 6

Assist with Bowling League
at St. John Specialty Care Center
Meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.



Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Everything is FREE! No registration required. Horseback riding, crafts, campfire, archery, zipline, hikes canoeing, hayrides, games, sports and so much more!

Being Fit – Staying Young
Chair Aerobics
Monday Evenings – 6:30 pm

We will continue to meet Monday evenings at 6:30 pm through May 6. Join us if you would like to improve balance, flexibility and strength. Any questions, contact Kim Richards at 724-316-2263.

Ladies Book Group
Wednesday, April 24 – 3:00 pm

Our book selection for April is “Rambler: A Family Pushes Through the Fog of Mental Illness” by Linda K. Schmitmeyer. Her husband, a mechanical engineer, was diagnosed at age 26 with bipolar disorder, but diagnosis later changed to schizoaffective disorder. The book chronicles the traumatic journey of her children and self through spell-binding writing, not the clinical construct of the medical community. For many, this is an everyday experience and this is who she reaches through this book.

Donations for Easter Egg Hunt



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday and the Elders are accepting donations of treats (candy), stuffers, and coins to include in the 300+ eggs stuffed for this event. The children look forward to this event each year! Donations can be given to any of the Elders and should be made by April 14.



**St. John Easter Egg Hunt and
Easter Breakfast**
Easter Sunday – April 21

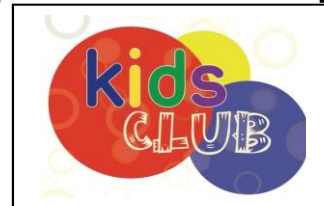
Please join us for a fun time with the children for the Egg Hunt and for our Easter Breakfast between services.

Quilting Group
Monday – April 8 - 6:00 pm



Join us on the second Monday of each month to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Newcomers welcome!

Kid's Club
April 26 – 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 Chuck Olescyski or Valerie Cardinal. This program is for kids age 4-10. Kids are encouraged to bring a friend. *Thanks to Jeff Ward for designing our colorful banner in the church yard!*

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- April 6 – Family Game Night
- April 7 – Fellowship Breakfast
- April 21 – Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast
- April 27 – Ladies Tea
- April 28 – Pizza & Bowling
- May 11 – Camp Blast
- July 14 – Church Picnic @ Adams Park





Birthdays

- 04/07 Zachary Claus
- 04/07 John Fritz
- 04/11 Todd McCormick
- 04/11 David Hrach
- 04/13 Jonathan Brower
- 04/17 Deanna McDonald
- 04/20 Martha Ward
- 04/24 Susan Bielo
- 04/24 Karen Collins



- 4/12 Robert & Carolyn Zimmerman – 39 yrs.
- 4/18 Clarence & Marlene Strabel – 61 yrs.
- 4/30 Joseph & Gretchen Baysek – 25 yrs.

Communion Bread Schedule

April – John Tully

Counters for April

Sally Foster & Denise Hager

**April
Worship Helpers**

Assisting Minister

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

Usher

8:00 am Dave Knauff
 10:30 am James Ward

Communion Assistants

8:00 am
 10:30 am

April Newsletter

Address service requested

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