

May  
2019

# St. John Lutheran Church



St. John Lutheran Church  
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Mars, PA 16046

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*Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.*  
Proverbs 22:6

Dear friends in Christ,

Over Lent, I had the privilege to work with our confirmation class on the Stations of the Cross presentation they provided for Good Friday worship. It was a lot of fun as they participated with enthusiasm. This month the youth are having a "Lock In" on May 10<sup>th</sup> - a night of fun, fellowship, and worship. Each month on the last Friday the younger ones of the congregation have the opportunity to participate in Kid's Club - an evening of music, story, games and craft that connect to their faith. It is a high-energy enjoyable time for all! Active participation of young people in faith building activities among their peers outside of worship may be one of the most crucial parts of helping them grow in faith. If they are not already a part of these activities I encourage you to bring them.

Another way to provide life changing faith formation opportunities is to have your child or grandchild go to Camp Lutherlyn. As their website says, "For more than seventy years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience!" As children and youth interact with staff and one another in this outdoor ministry setting they grow in faith in amazing ways.

There are a variety of programs from pre-school day programs, to day camps, half-week and a variety of weeklong camps for children from first grade to seniors in high school. My daughter enjoyed both Classic Camp and Horse Camp when she was young, but there are Rocketry, Adventurers, Musical Theater, Night Owls, and more. St. John has funds set aside specifically to help with camp scholarships and Lutherlyn promises "never to turn a child away from the opportunity to grow stronger in their faith because of financial circumstances." Cost should not be a deterrent.

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> beginning with opening worship at 11:00, Lutherlyn is hosting a free day to visit the camp and enjoy all camp has to offer. Bring the family, enjoy the day, and consider having your children experience one of the programs available this summer. More information on camp programs and registration can be found at [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com), or talk to Matt Claus or me about Lutherlyn and what it has to offer.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

## 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.*

### **Morning Prayer, Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study**

Each Wednesday we gather for Morning Prayer at 11:30 am; Brown Bag Lunch at Noon; Bible Study at 12:30 pm.  
All are welcome!

### **Live Online Study – Liturgy and Life Begins May 8 – 7:30-8:00 pm**

Our interactive live online study continues in May so that you can participate from the convenience and comfort of your home. We will meet every other Wednesday to discuss the current topic.

If you would like to join the group, contact Pastor Zimmerman at [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)

### **A Renewal of Our Relationship with St. John Lutheran Care Center**

In January, the Vestry attended a retreat at St. John Lutheran Care Center. They kindly donated the space and provided us with lunch. I did not plan to attend, because I did not want to sit that long, but then obligation took over, in addition to remembering back to my childhood and how close St. John Church and St. John Home were at that time.

So many good memories – going to school with the children who lived there, church picnics and fairs with other area Lutheran churches, playing in the creek, sled riding. So, I decided to attend the retreat. Pastor invited the activities director at SJSCC, Skyler Bartley, to speak to us about volunteer opportunities there and she mentioned some of the ladies have been asking to have a book discussion group. My ears perked right up, and I talked with her about starting this. Ruth Ann Tully and I have formed a small reading group, and they have the first book to read and we will meet to discuss it and have some tea on May 1. So, I must admit I'm glad I went, but it was a long time to sit!

Our church Youth Group have formed a relationship there by helping with bowling. Perhaps in the future, there will be other opportunities to strengthen our ties.

Sally Foster



To all participants in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday – Well Done!

Dominic, Emily, Lindsey, Madison, and Makenna – you did an outstanding job!

For those who helped to make this happen – Pastor, Keith, Valerie and any others, it was an inspiring event.

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

## Stewardship of community

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. –Leviticus 19:18b*

*And who is my neighbor? –Luke 10:29b*

Think of all the homes, apartments and condos within walking (or easy driving) distance of our congregation. Now ask, how do we interact with these neighbors? Does our congregation understand their issues, joys, opportunities and challenges? How can we love them as ourselves?

Though God has filled the world with neighbors for us to love, we have a special opportunity and responsibility with neighbors who are nearby us. They form our immediate community. Many congregations narrowly define “community” as people who are already part of church, but God calls us to broaden our vision.

Congregations across our denomination are finding renewed energy and purpose by connecting (or reconnecting) with their community neighbors. It takes work and a willingness to go outside our comfort zone, but worth the effort pays off for them and us.

“It’s within our power to become good neighbors, to care for the people around us and to be cared for by the people around us,” write Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon in *The Art of Neighboring* (2012, Baker Books, p. 22), a handy guide for a church to start a neighboring movement. “There really is a different way to live, and we are finding that it is actually the best way to live.”

Loving our neighbors we naturally gather together as community that is blessed by God. It holds true in our personal lives as well as our congregations. As spring and summer unfolds, let’s commit to finding ways to be better stewards of our community, engaging our neighbors, especially those who live closest to our congregation.

-- Rob Blezard

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Pastor Blezard works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org) and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and. He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com).



### Flower Planting – May 19

Our Sunday School class will be helping to beautify the church grounds by planting flowers on the last day of Sunday School.

Please have your children dress accordingly since they will be digging in the dirt!

As in the past, we will collect flats of flowers and potting soil from anyone who would like to donate.

*Please have these at the church by Saturday, May 18. Thank you!*

### Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, May 5



Join us for breakfast between services for a delicious breakfast and good conversation!



**May 19 – Last Day of Sunday School & Lifelong Learning**

**May 26 - We will return to our summer worship schedule with one service at 9:00 am.**



## Camp Blast at Lutherlyn

May 11, 2019

11am - 4:30 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!



### Saturday – May 4

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

### Friday – May 10 - 7:00 pm – Midnight

Youth Group Lock-in at St. John Church

### Family Game Night

Saturday, May 25

3:00-7:00 pm

Join us for a night of fun and games! Bring your favorite game to play. All ages welcome! This will be a picnic potluck. Any questions, speak to Kim Richards



### Ladies Book Group

Wednesday, May 22 – 3:00 pm

We will be choosing a new book to read for this session. The book is still to be determined.

If you are interested in joining, talk to Sally Foster.

### Kid's Club May 31 – 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.

### Vacation Bible School St John Church & Mars U.P. Church July 14-18 - 6:00 - 8:30 pm

#### ***Roar! Life is Wild and God is Good***

VBS will be held in conjunction with St. John at Mars U.P. Church. Registration is required. You may register at [www.mars-up.org](http://www.mars-up.org).





**Birthdays**

- 05/05 Nick Brower
- 05/07 Jessica Woomer
- 05/08 Erin Weaver
- 05/08 Amy Werner
- 05/11 Ruth Ann Tully
- 05/14 Valerie Cardinal
- 05/18 John Tully
- 05/20 Olivia Claus
- 05/23 Steve Schnelle
- 05/24 Ella Niklewicz
- 05/28 Janmarie Leikauf
- 05/31 Carolyn Jarrett
- 05/31 Grace Kratz

**Upcoming Events**  
**May 26 – Summer Schedule – 1 service @ 9am**  
**July 14 – Church Picnic at Adams Park**  
**July 14-18 – VBS @ Mars U. P. Church**

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
 May – Christine Dishong

**Counters for May**  
 Jamie Weaver & John Tully

**May  
Worship Helpers**

**Assisting Minister**  
 8:00 am Ruth Ann Tully  
 10:30 am Valerie Cardinal

**Usher**  
 8:00 am John Tully  
 10:30 am Cardinal Family

**Communion Assistants**  
 8:00 am  
 10:30 am

# May Newsletter

Address service requested

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