

June  
2019

# 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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***“Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.”  
(ELW #396)***

Dear friends in Christ,

On June 9th in worship we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, empowering them to leave their room and fear behind and boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus. It is the beginning of the Church as thousands were baptized that day long ago.

John's gospel calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate, and the Spirit of truth, in Luke and elsewhere it is called the power of God. Martin Luther in the Catechism describes the Spirit as our source of faith, and what "calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian Church."

We tend to think of the spirit as a comforter, a supporter, and encourager. That "spirit of gentleness" in the above hymn refrain. But the Spirit is also a driver, the source of incentive and direction. It is also a "spirit of restlessness" that stirs us from the routine, that sends us into uncharted places, calls us to the unknown. The Urban Dictionary website defines "restless spirits" as "characters who are constantly moving. They are the creative ones who rise against social conventions and stride their rocky path of new horizons." This, in my opinion, is a wonderful description of the Spirit led Church.

After Pentecost Sunday, the Church enters into a season called time "after Pentecost." Many tend to call this the season of Pentecost, but it is not - it is the time after Pentecost. It is a reminder that the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost changed and changes everything. Red is the color of Pentecost, but this time after the coming of the Spirit is represented by green, signifying that this is a time of growing things and new life. It is the time we live in now: the time after the Spirit has entered into the church. It is a time to reflect on how we are a Spirit-led people, part of all that has been made new!

The final stanza of the hymn draws us into those new possibilities:

***“You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise.”***

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

**Live Online Study – Liturgy and Life**  
**Continues June 5, June 19 and July 3 – 7:30-8:00 pm**

Our interactive live online study continues so that you can participate from the convenience and comfort of your home.

*Upcoming topics in Liturgy and Life are: June 5 – The Word; June 19 – The Peace; July 3 – The Meal.*  
If you would like to join the group, contact Pastor Zimmerman at [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)



**Save the Date!**

**St. John Outdoor Service & Church Picnic**  
**Sunday, July 14, 2019 – 9:00 am**



Our annual outdoor worship service and church picnic will be on **Sunday, July 14 at 9:00 am at Adams Twp. Community Park**. Service is at 9:00 am followed by a picnic with plenty of food, drink, games and lots of fun for all ages!

**Update from Mission Endowment and Outreach Committee**

As you have been reading Glade Run has been our project for the second quarter. Pastor Christina Hough, Director of Spiritual Care for Glade Run will be visiting us on June 16<sup>th</sup> and delivering the sermon.

We have 2 more quarters for this year and projects have been selected for them. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will be school supplies from the Good Gifts Catalog, and we will also be asking the congregation to donate school supplies which we will put into back packs and distribute where most needed in our area. Pastor Zimmerman will speak with the Lighthouse to help determine this. Boxes will appear in the greeting area at the beginning of July for the donations along with a list of what is needed.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be Lutheran seminary students from our synod of which there are approximately 15, but 3 are from West Virginia/Western Maryland synod. We will cover 2 weeks of living expenses for a student or one week of tuition for one course. Seminary students are graduating with huge school loans to repay (usually at least \$100,000 = one semester of tuition for one Seminary course is around \$2000. Over the next 19 years the ELCA will need 4,000 new pastors just to fill vacancies.

**Items Needed for VBS**

Please save your paper towel and toilet paper tubes and place them in the box in the greeting area. These will be used for craft projects for the children at Vacation Bible School.

## Develop a heart of generosity

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

**Acts 20:35b**

A friend who regularly volunteers to serve meals to the needy illustrates the truth of Jesus' teaching.

"It's so rewarding to help," she says, explaining that the time and hard work is worth it. "I think I get more out of it than they do."

It feels good to give, but we are blessed with so much more when we give generously. The act of giving truly blesses us by shaping our personalities and developing our character. That's a truth affirmed by research. (Check out "The Science of Generosity" white paper from the University of California at Berkeley, or "The Science of Generosity Initiative" at Notre Dame University).

Generous people tend to be the kind of good folk we want as friends and neighbors. We often think of generosity only in terms of financial giving, but generous people go way beyond that, embodying generosity with all they have and all they are. They are not merely generous, they are *generous-hearted*.

Anyone can develop a generous heart, or a *more* generous heart. Begin by deepening your relationship with God, seeking guidance and wisdom in daily prayer. Then simply begin to pour yourself out for the sake of others, giving generously as a spiritual exercise and discipline. Here are five action steps:

**Give smiles.** Smile at everyone you see. You may be surprised at how it changes your outlook.

**Give nice words.** Say something nice to everyone – family and friends, coworkers, parishioners, store clerks, folks in an elevator.

**Give courtesy.** Hold a door open for the person behind you; stop for pedestrians; let someone go ahead of you in line.

**Give your time.** Serve people *face-to-face*: tutor school children, serve meals, visit a shut-in, teach ESL, volunteer at a homeless shelter.

**Give your resources:** Slowly increase your giving to God's ministry. Make tithing a long-term goal.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than receive. When we give our time, talents and possessions, God blesses us by developing in us a generous heart.

*--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).*

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.



## Ladies Book Group

Wednesday, June 19 – 3:00 pm

We will begin to discuss our new book **“A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” by Betty Smith**. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original publication of this book. It is the story of a young girl coming of age at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the moment Francie Nolan was born she needed to be made of stern stuff due to the often harsh realities of her circumstances. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking and uplifting, the daily struggles of the Nolan family are tenderly threaded with family connectedness and honesty. An American classic that cuts to heart of life.



## Saturday – June 1

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

This will be our last time assisting for the summer. We plan to resume in the fall.

## Kid’s Club

June 28 – 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).



## Quilting Group Monday, June 10 – 6:00 pm



We meet on the second Monday of each month to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Newcomers are welcome!



- 06/01 – Amy & Ryan Adams – 7 yrs.
- 06/07 – Steve & Kathleen Schnelle – 34 yrs.
- 06/11 – Jamie & Erin Weaver – 14 yrs.
- 06/26 – William & Karen Schulz – 55 yrs.
- 06/29 – Henry & Janet Ford – 56 yrs.



***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
- 06/25 Olivia Waldrop
- 06/26 Alaina Nagel
- 06/28 Abigail Cardinal
- 06/29 Gabriella Julio

**Upcoming Events**  
 July 14 – Church Picnic at Adams Park  
 July 14-18 – VBS @ Mars U. P. Church

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
 June, July August – Sally Foster

**Counters for June**  
 Dave Knauff & Matt Claus

**June  
 Worship Helpers**

**Assisting Minister**  
 9:00 am **Christine Dishong**

**Usher**  
 9:00 am **Robert Dishong**

**Communion Assistant**  
 9:00 am

# June Newsletter

Address service requested

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