

July & August  
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  
PO Box 411  
420 Beaver Street  
Mars, PA 16046*

*Web site: [www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Church Office: (724) 625-1830  
Office email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Pastor Bob's email: [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)  
Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628*

Dear friends in Christ,

For close to thirty years I have been attending Synod Assemblies, first as a lay voting member of a congregation, then as a pastor. At times I have found these multiple day gatherings repetitive and tiresome, but mostly I have come away from this larger expression of our church energized and with a new appreciation of what it is to be Church together. Perhaps the biggest benefit of Synod Assemblies is that they draw us into awareness that our church is so much more than just our small congregation in a small town - it is national, it has global reach, it is proclaiming the gospel in word and deed throughout the world in so many ways.

At June's assembly we were connected with ministries happening right in our synod such as Community Three Four One in Brookline that provides fellowship, worship and a free meal to all who arrive at their Wednesday Night Table. It is a collaboration between the Presbyterians and Lutherans in Brookline. We heard from the various agencies connected to our synod: Glade Run, Bethesda Children's Home, United Lutheran Seminary, Theil College, Camps Lutherlyn and Agape and more. We as the people of God through the Holy Spirit chose our leaders - re-electing Bishop Kusserow to his third six-year term as bishop, and electing a new synod vice-president and secretary along with many other representatives to the ministries of our synod. We struggled with budget challenges that are similar to what a congregation deals with.

Present this year was the ELCA vice-president Bill Horne, a lay volunteer, a retired Army Colonel, a city manager from Clearwater Florida, who serves and represents the wider church not only at the Chicago Church-wide office but also throughout the country and the world.

Our keynote speakers were Carrie Taneyhill, Deputy Director for Emergency Operations for Lutheran World Relief; and Krish O'mara Vignarajah, who after coming to the United States with her parents as a refugee herself, and previously serving in the White House and State Department, now serves as President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. They both shared stories of global need and the mission we are a part of: providing comfort and aid to those in need with quilts and health kits, medical care, clothing and meals in areas devastated by disaster and assisting those that have left their home to seek safety in a new place. Their stories are compelling and make me glad to be a part of a church that shares the love of Christ in such ways.

While no one enjoys meetings, it is a joy to be drawn closer to something bigger. To be part of a large group of Christians that are also Lutheran, experiencing community and worship as part of a Church that serves a God whose love is for the whole world. I encourage you to consider being a voting member at the next assembly and experience this wider expression of our church for yourself.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Bob Zimmerman*

**Live Online Study – Liturgy and Life  
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. *July 3 – The Meal*. This will be our last online session for the summer.

**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! The fees to help defray the costs are - Adults & Children 10 & up- \$5.00; Ages 3-9 - \$2.50; Age 2 & under – Free. Maximum of \$20 per family. Please fill out the form that will be attached to the bulletin the next few weeks and **return by July 7** to mailbox in the greeting area marked as **Denise Hager – Picnic**. Checks should be made out to St. John Lutheran Church.



**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) or by calling 724-625-1365.



**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.



**Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Mars!**  
3:30 pm – Food, music & kid's entertainment  
5:00 pm – Parade  
9:15 pm – Fireworks (after dark)



Summer days are upon us! Camp Lutherlyn has activities for all ages and interests including some exciting specialty programs. For additional information, or to register go to [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com).

**Day Camp at Lutherlyn – 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders – July 1-5.**

Games, nature activities, crafts, songs, puppets, stories, swimming, hiking, pony rides, Bible study, hayrides, campfire, a closing program for the parents, and lots more! A week-long day program from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, Monday – Friday.

**Small Fry Days – for Grades 1-3. July 29, 30, 31 and August 1, 2.**

This day-long program introduces 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to Lutherlyn. Join us for pony rides, crafts, swimming, games, hiking, singing, Bible study, hayrides, and campfire. Come once or come multiple days. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm each day.



## Manners Help Make the World a Kinder Place

**Push your chair in when you leave the table** – It might seem obvious, but don't make someone else move it for you.

**Always RSVP** – Respond sooner rather than later so you won't forget, and so your host can plan accordingly.

**Greet Everyone When You Enter a Room** – If you don't personally know someone at a party or gathering, it's polite to say hello and introduce yourself.

**Never Show Up Empty-Handed** – It's the thought that counts. Bringing your host a trinket or appreciation, a bottle of wine or baked goods is a gracious way of saying thank you.

**Ask Before Bringing a Guest** – Or your kids. Or your pet. Don't assume they are automatically invited, no matter how well you know your host or hostess.

**Look at the Person Speaking to You** – It's impolite to be glancing down at your phone while someone is talking to you. Look up and give eye contact to signal that you're listening.

**Learn People's Names** – Memorizing someone's name and using it to address them is a sign of respect.

**Hold the Door** – Instead of rushing through, take a look to see if anyone is behind you.

**Say You're Sorry** – No one's perfect and social etiquette can be complicated. If you make a flub, simply apologize and move on.

## Stewardship of Our Civic Freedoms

As Americans celebrate the birthday of our nation, we give thanks for our civic freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, due process, a speedy trial, voting and many more. Our freedom has made us the envy of much of the world.

But as with any valuable gift, our civic freedoms can be abused, neglected or underappreciated to the point where, if we aren't careful, they hardly matter anymore.

Lutherans are guided by Martin Luther's insight that we are simultaneously called to be responsible citizens of "two kingdoms" – first, of God's spiritual realm, and second, of earthly governments of people and laws. The synergy of our "dual citizenship" directs us to be good stewards of our civic freedoms.

**Freedom of speech:** Yes, even hateful speech and lies are protected under our Constitution, but Christians avoid them in obedience to Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves and by the Eighth Commandment, which Luther explains in *The Small Catechism*: "We should fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations." We steward this freedom by speaking honestly and insisting others do, too.

**Freedom of religion:** Millions of people across the globe, including Christians, face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. We dare not take our freedom for granted, but exercise it with joy and defend the rights of others to follow their own consciences.

**Freedom from illegal prosecution:** Our guarantees of due process in legal, criminal and civil proceedings uphold justice and guard against government misconduct. It works imperfectly, as do all human systems, but as good stewards we fight for justice and the rights for all.

**Freedom of self-governance:** With its interconnected checks and balances, our three-branch system of government provides stability, accountability and flexibility for change. It's a great system, but it requires us to be informed and involved. We steward this freedom by participating in political processes, voting and insisting on honest government that works for our interests.

This month, as citizens of both God's spiritual realm and the United States of America, we renew our commitment to be good stewards of the freedoms we are privileged to have.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.

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. He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com).

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

## Music, Music, Music

Have you wondered why did we sing this or thought this hymn really matches the sermon? That is the task of the worship planning committee as we joyfully plan the music. There are so many hymns to choose from and there are 3 things to keep in mind in selecting songs for all seasons.

First, what is the theme of the day? For this we consider the season of the church year, the scripture lessons and gospel and the prayer of the day. Often Pastor will tell us what he will most likely use for his message.

Second, is there a special liturgical action happening like a baptism, installation of Sunday school teachers or church council and boards and always communion (except Good Friday)?

Third, what is the function of each hymn within the service? Gathering and sending do what they say. The hymn of the day serves to make clear and reinforce the themes in the lessons, gospel, and sermon. The offering hymn prepares us for communion and is a sign of giving of our whole selves in thanks for God's gift to us and of course the communion hymn reminds us of the meaning of communion and often ties in with the theme of the day. The hymns should flow with the current of worship, not swim against it. For example, hymn 537 - On Our Way Rejoicing is a great hymn, but not to gather us to worship!

There are other things to consider also when choosing our songs. Is it familiar to the congregation? If not, is it relatively easy to learn and/or sing? This is where we do a **lot** of singing amongst ourselves, which sometimes leads to rejecting a hymn even though the words might be perfect. Or we find the words may fit with a different tune. That's what the title and numbers in the lower right bottom of the hymn are used for. If you look in the back of the hymnal, pages 1199 to 1203, there is a section called Metrical Index of Tunes and you can often find a more singable tune for the words.

Speaking of the back of the hymnal, there are several indexes including acknowledgements of text and music sources and copyright information for every hymn which explains why some of our favorite hymns might not be in the book (in addition to space limitations). There is a topical index of hymns, i.e. adoration, Advent, affirmation of baptism, angels, arts and science, and children; hymns might be listed under more than one heading. Sources of Service Music and Hymns is the list of authors of text and music. Next is the Alphabetical Index of Tunes and the Metrical Index of Tunes. And finally, and perhaps the most helpful to us, is the First Lines and Titles of Hymns.

Let's look at Sunday, June 30th.

In the readings the Lord tells Elijah there are still faithful people in Israel and he is to appoint new leaders. In the Galatians reading Paul says the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do what we want. The Holy Spirit produces a different kind of life marked by the fruits of the spirit. In the Gospel Jesus shows unwavering commitment to his mission and calls the disciples to do likewise. Leave behind all that hinders us, nothing should come between Christ and one he has called.

Hymns: Gathering 767- Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me Along Life's Way..... unto the end, gathers us to follow Christ. The Hymn of the Day - 768 - Lead me, Guide me .... if you lead me, I cannot stray. I am lost if you take your hand from me enjoins the Gospel. Offering hymn 470 - Draw Us in the Spirits Tether, we sing as 2 or 3 gather he is in the midst of them breaking bread and blessing the cup; Communion 805 - Lead on O King Eternal, your grace has made us strong and finally the Sending Song 810 - O Jesus I Have Promised, to serve you to the end, give me grace to follow.

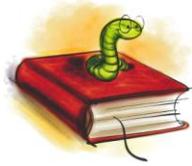
This is what we do for each Sunday and other services.

### References:

Sundays and Seasons Year C

Indexes to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2007

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) October 2006



## Ladies Book Group

Wednesday, July 17 – 3:00 pm

Wednesday, August 21 – 3:00 PM

We will continue to discuss *“A Tree Grows in Brooklyn”* by *Betty Smith*. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original publication of this book. 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 the heart of life.

## Quilting Group

Monday, July 8 – 6:00 pm

Monday – August 12 – 6:00 pm



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

## Kid’s Club Summer Break



There will not be any Kid’s Club meetings for the summer, but we will resume again in the fall. Hope to see you back and bring your friends!

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### July Birthdays

07/03 Amber Zalewsky  
07/12 Victoria Lydon  
07/12 Kathleen Schnelle  
07/13 Christopher Julio  
07/13 Marcia Shepard  
07/14 Katie Richards  
07/19 Jean Claus  
07/20 Luca Julio  
07/20 June Siembieda  
07/22 Jeff Ward  
07/26 Chester Carbo  
07/28 George Leikauf  
07/30 Robert Dishong

### August Birthdays

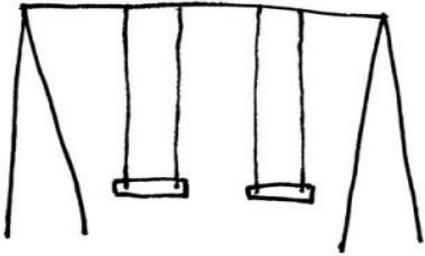
08/02 Emma Niklewicz  
08/05 Denise Hager  
08/06 Gabrielle Baysek  
08/08 Anne Olescyski  
08/08 Frederick Bielo  
08/13 Gretchen Baysek  
08/14 Ava Niklewicz  
08/14 Laura Greb  
08/16 Rylee McDonald  
08/17 Kayla Julio  
08/17 Todd Niklewicz  
08/24 Beverly Crislip  
08/29 Ralph Storm  
08/29 Paulina Scherrer

### July Anniversaries

07/12 – Dave & Cindy Knauff – 43 yrs.  
07/14 – Todd & Katie Niklewicz – 12 yrs.  
07/20 – Chester & Frieda Carbo – 57 yrs.  
07/21 – Larry & Amy Werner – 40 yrs.  
07/23 – Nick & Tatiana Brower – 15 yrs.

### August Anniversaries

08/04 – George & Janmarie Leikauf – 44 yrs  
08/25 – John & Susan Fritz – 40 yrs.



don't forget to play



**Enjoy your summer, but remember church is still open!  
Sunday Worship at 9:00 am.**



**Upcoming Events**  
July 14 – Church Picnic at Adams Park  
July 14-18 – VBS @ Mars U. P. Church  
September 7 – Corn Roast

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
July & August – Sally Foster

**Counters for July**  
Jamie Weaver & Dave Knauff

**Counters for August**  
Matt Claus & Anne Olescyski

**Worship Helpers**

**July**  
**Assisting Minister**  
9:00 am Kelly Greb

**Usher**  
9:00 am Cardinal Family

**August**  
**Assisting Minister**  
9:00 am Melissa Kramer

**Usher**  
9:00 am Jamie Weaver

# July and August Newsletter

---

Address service requested

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
420 BEAVER STREET  
P.O. BOX 411  
MARS, PA 16046