

September  
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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Dear friends in Christ,

*"Let us pray:*

*Lord, we are bewildered.*

*More violence? Another mess of blood and debris on the screen?*

*We haven't yet recovered from the last.*

*Some of us are paralyzed with fear...*

*Some of us are incensed with hatred...*

*Some of us just feel numb..."\**

According to ABC news, there have been at least seventeen mass shootings so far in 2019 (defined as a shooting where four or more victims are killed) and 102 victim fatalities this year. It is less than a month since the weekend of violence the beginning of August when a shooter opened fire in a Wal-Mart in El Paso, Texas and fourteen hours later in Dayton, Ohio another person killed nine people. Yet, amazingly, the stories have almost disappeared from the news. The outrage and promises of change have faded away to the usual recommendations that are more political than practical. Lives return to normal, the nation, we, move on. Our lives go on, pretty much unchanged, except there are now "bullet resistant" backpacks among available school supplies.

Add to these, the almost daily shootings in our nation's cities, including the Pittsburgh and Butler areas. There is racial violence, gang violence, shooting of law enforcement officers, random victims, unintended deaths, and deadly domestic violence. Deadly violence has been unending across our nation and in our communities.

The beginning sentences above, introductory phrases to sections of a much longer prayer, highlight I think our responses to such violence around us. Bewilderment that this can even happen; fear, unsure of where and what is safe anymore; anger and a desire to lash out at...well, something. And finally just numb: too much too soon, too often, as we just try to get through our own busy lives.

These deaths and the grieving families cannot be forgotten. The reasons behind this violence cannot be ignored. Life cannot just go on as before. As it says in Habakkuk in the face of injustice and bloodshed, "...the stones in the walls will cry out." As disciples of Christ Jesus we cannot keep silent. Our baptismal promises declare we are to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." (ELW pg. 237). In faith we can be loud and persistent advocates for change in the systems of fear and reactionary aggression that fuel this climate of violence.

*(continued on next page)*

Long before mass shootings became commonplace, the 1994 *ELCA Social Message on Community Violence* summed up our work:

“The Holy Spirit works among us to wrench us from violence, hate, greed, and fear, and transforms us into people who are called to trust God and live in community with one another. In doing so, we need to confront the violent tendencies within ourselves and our society, and find ways to cultivate the practice of nonviolence. ...We are empowered to take up the challenge to prevent violence and to attack the complex causes that make violence so pervasive. “\*\*

For two weeks (9/18 & 9/25) our Wednesday noontime bible study will talk about community violence as we discuss an article on page fourteen in the August *Living Lutheran* magazine, entitled “Strive for Justice and Peace”. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

It is important to not simply go about our lives while such a fundamental change in our society becomes common. In the midst of this broken and violent nation and world may we seek to be agents of peace as we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. (cf. Micah 6:8)

*“Lord of all, gather us up—your creatures, your world— and bring an end to the violence. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.” \**

In the Peace of Christ,  
*Pastor Bob Zimmerman*

\*Excerpts from, “Prayer for Mass Violence” from the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner of the ELCA. Taken from the ELCA resource “A Sixty Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence” available at: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



## Fall Worship Schedule

We will return to our Fall Worship Schedule ***beginning on Sunday, September 8.***

***Worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.***  
Hope to see you there!

## Morning Prayer Beginning September 18 Wednesday Mornings at 11:30 am

As we reconvene for fall we will resume our Wednesday morning schedule with morning prayer at 11:30 am. We pray for those on our prayer list and any special intentions necessary.

Even if you have not joined us in the past, or are unable to come weekly, please consider taking time to participate.

## Fall Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study

Join us for fellowship and intriguing faith discussions!



12:00 noon: Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship and conversation  
12:30-1:30: Bible Study

### September 18 & 25: "Strive for Justice and Peace"

Using an article from the August Living Lutheran and the ELCA Social Message on Community Violence we will look at our baptismal call to work for justice and peace in the world.

### October 2, 9, 16, 23: "Giving in Generosity"

Do you consider yourself a generous person? As we contemplate what it means to give of ourselves and our gifts to God, generosity becomes a very important part of the conversation about what it means to be a disciple and a steward of God's gifts. As we begin the third part of our Stewardship Emphasis "*First we Give of Ourselves*" we will turn to the Word to help understand what giving in generosity means and the difference it makes in how we share gifts. This study is coordinated with the upcoming Sunday readings and will also be offered during the Adult Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings

## Wednesday Evening Online Study Group

7:30-8:00 p.m.

### The Great Christian Heresies

Join this group from the comfort of your home beginning September 18<sup>th</sup> as we meet online for a 30-minute four week study and discussion on a few of the Christian Heresies that the church has faced and how they can continue to show up in various forms today. Please sign up in the greeting area or email Pastor Zimmerman at [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org) to receive an invitational email with instructions on how to log on and a weekly study guide.

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

## FIRST, WE GIVE OF OURSELVES: Giving in Generosity



This fall we enter into the final leg of our three-year journey exploring discipleship and growing as stewards. We began our first leg with an emphasis on “Giving in Grace”. Year two was one filled with the meaning of gratitude as we centered our attention of “Giving in Gratitude”. Now, as we enter year three of this emphasis on discipleship and stewardship, we turn our attention to “Giving in Generosity”. Over the next number of week, we will explore the concept of generosity, both God’s and ours. What does God’s generosity look like? How do we live each day in God’s generosity? How does God’s generosity provide a model for our own? These are just a few of the questions we will explore together.

### Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

**September 29:** “First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Generosity Kick Off Sunday

**October 13:** “Generosity Sunday” This is a special day providing an opportunity to celebrate the combined generosity of our congregation in sharing a gift for a ministry outside our congregation. Be watching for more news about this opportunity for generosity.

**November 10:** **Celebration and Commitment Sunday.** At this service we will celebrate God’s generosity and indicate how we will generously share our gifts in response to God’s grace and for our ministry of sharing this grace.

### “Giving in Generosity” All Congregation Bible Study

Gathering around God’s Word enriches all we do. As we experience our conversation about generosity, we have the opportunity to share in an all-congregation Bible Study entitled, “Giving in Generosity”. This is a four-week study that will examine generosity from the perspective of God’s grace, God’s generosity, and how God’s generosity is model for our own. This will occur during the Wednesday brown bag studies and Adult Sunday School, beginning in October, please plan to participate!



**Sunday, September 8, 2019 – 9:00 am**  
**Ice Cream Breakfast**

Join us for our traditional Ice Cream Breakfast on Sunday, September 8 to kick-off the new Sunday School year and show support for our children, teachers and helpers. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year!

# St. John Corn Roast

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**  
**4:00 – 6:00 pm**



**Food – Fun – Games**

Something for everyone!

Join us for a festive day to welcome the harvest season and to come together as a community. There will be plenty of food, games and more for all!



**Quilting Group**  
**September 9 – 6:00 pm**



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

**Kid's Club**  
**September 27**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**



It's time to get back into our fall schedule and reconnect with friends at Kid's Club! Hope to see you back and don't forget to bring your friends!

**Chair Aerobics**  
**Beginning September 9 – 6:00 pm**



Join us each Monday evening at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we get fit with gentle chair aerobics. There is a sign-up sheet in the greeting area. See Kim Richards if you have any questions.



**Ladies Book Group**  
**Wednesday, September 18 – 3:00 pm**  
Our group chooses a book to read and discuss at our monthly meetings. If you are interested in joining us, please come to one of the meetings or speak to Sally Foster.



- 09/02 Nicholas Claus, Jr.
- 09/04 Larry Werner
- 09/06 Nicholas Claus
- 09/09 Sally Foster
- 09/09 Angelina Passione
- 09/10 Winifred Stefko
- 09/13 Clarence Strabel
- 09/15 Jamie Weaver
- 09/17 Kelly Greb
- 09/26 Geena Provenzano
- 09/27 Roy Werner
- 09/27 Susan Fritz
- 09/29 Danielle Dishong
- 09/30 Matthew Claus

**Upcoming Events**

**September 28 – Kid’s Club Kickoff**  
**October 12 – Campfire Worship - 5:30 pm**  
**October 26 – Fall Clean-up Day**

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
 September – Carol Zimmerman

**Counters for September**  
 Valerie Cardinal & Tanya Nagel

  
 9/16 – Amber & Michael Zalewsky – 3 yrs.  
 9/29 – William & Kelly Greb – 18 yrs.

**Worship Helpers**  
**September**

**September 1**  
**Assisting Minister**  
 9:00 am      **Ruth Ann Tully**

**Usher**  
 9:00 am      **Clarence Strabel**

**Sept. 8 thru Sept. 29**  
**Assisting Minister**  
 8:00 am      **Ruth Ann Tully**  
 10:30 am     **Martha Ward**

**Ushers**  
 8:00 am      **Clarence Strabel**  
 10:30 am     **Cardinal Family**

# September Newsletter

Address service requested

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