

October  
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

***“Let anyone who has an ear listen”***

Dear friends in Christ,

I am writing this on a beautiful autumn day, it is just the right temperature to open the window in my office. I hear the sounds of cars passing; the beep-beep of a truck backing up; the whir of a grass trimmer somewhere; the whines and bark of a neighborhood dog; and the persistent call of a catbird in a nearby tree. Without being closed off from the elements, I am aware of the outside world in a much more direct way: I can hear what is going on outside, a connection to nature and to the other people that surround me.

For those that hear well, hearing is a sense we often take for granted. It is always “on.” Unlike eyes, our ears cannot be closed. But how often do we “tune out” what we hear, are we really connecting to the world around us through what we hear? Are we listening to ways God may be speaking to us amid the noisy clamor of our everyday life? Or have we become desensitized and fail to hear what is all around us?

Do we hear the wind in the trees, the songs of birds to remind us to actively work to protect the good creation God has made us caretakers of? Do we hear the fear and anger in the voices of our neighbors living in this uncertain time, the need to respond with greater love and compassion toward all? Do we hear in the news reports of so many people that desperately seek a better life, the echo of our baptismal call to seek justice and peace in the world?

We have busy lives that tend to be focused on our own immediate needs, but around us the Holy Spirit continues to speak to us. May we have ears to listen!

When Moses presented the commandments to the Israelites in the desert, he began with, “Hear, O Israel.” (Deut. 6:4). Elijah heard God on the same mountain in “a still small voice” amid the great silence (1 Kings 19:12 NKJV). In Revelation the message to each of the seven churches include the imperative, “Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Rev. 2:7)

May we still our hearts to permit our ears to hear the Holy Spirit in the midst of the ordinary, and the willingness to listen to that still, small voice.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Bob Zimmerman*

## Morning Prayer

Wednesday Mornings 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 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 as we meet bi-weekly 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.



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

On September 29<sup>th</sup> we kicked off the final leg of our three-year journey exploring discipleship and growing as stewards. As we enter year three of this emphasis on discipleship and stewardship, we turn our attention to “Giving in Generosity”. Over the next few weeks 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:**

**October 13: “Generosity Sunday”** On this Sunday we will receive an offering of “generosity” as we bring our nonperishable gifts for the Food Pantry at the Lighthouse Foundation in Valencia.

Each week the Lighthouse provides food for over 300 families through the food pantry. Families are able to get fresh produce, canned goods, meat, frozen food, and fresh bakery items. Over one million dollars worth of food is distributed each year.

Below is a list of items the pantry needs this fall holiday season. Please donate as you can. If you prefer, monetary donations are also welcome, as it allows the pantry to purchase needed items in bulk at a reduced price. We will continue the collection through Celebration Sunday on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Let’s see how big of a tower of food we can make!

### **Suggested Food Pantry Donations for Generosity Sunday:**

Stuffing mixes  
Gravy  
Cranberries / Cranberry Sauces  
Green Beans  
Mushroom soup  
French’s Fried Onions  
Dried Mashed Potatoes  
Pumpkin Pie filling  
Biscuit Mixes

**November 10: Celebration and Commitment Sunday.** There will be one worship service at 10:00 am with a luncheon to follow. 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 Studies**

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 in October, please plan to participate!

## Bread for Communion

Churches in the ELCA express unity, but not uniformity in their communion practices. They do not use bread and wine as set forth in ELCA's priorities for practices of word and sacrament. In accordance with *The Use of Means of Grace*, this church uses bread and wine in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

What kinds of bread and in what form?

### Leavened Bread

This is bread made to rise with yeast. This is what we think of when someone says bread. It is a loaf broken and passed at table. It can be baked by members, or purchased at a bakery. The use of leavened bread is the most ancient attested practice of the church, and gives witness to the connection between the Eucharist and ordinary life. (1)

### Unleavened Bread

This is bread made without a rising agent and can be made quickly. It is also known by many (Panera, sandwich shops and restaurants) as flat bread. Using unleavened bread has its roots in the Passover in biblical accounts of the Last Supper.

We don't know for sure what kind of bread was used at the Last Supper. One school of thought states that because Jesus and his disciples probably gathered for a Passover Seder meal, traditional unleavened bread was used. The other suggests that this was a meal before Passover, for which staple bread and wine were used. Matthew (Chapter 26), Mark (Chapter 14), and Luke (Chapter 22), refer to the last meal as a Passover meal. John (Chapter 19) says the meal took place before the Passover.

In the early centuries of the church, leavened bread was used, as seen through paintings, mosaics, texts and sculptures of that period. In the middle ages in the West, 9<sup>th</sup> century Christians began to use unleavened pre-cut wafers. Only clergy could make the bread. Lutheran tradition grows out of Western tradition so this unleavened wafer continued. At any rate, no matter which bread there should be one large loaf or wafer that can be broken.

*The Use of the Means of Grace* suggests a loaf and chalice, since they signify the unity the sacrament bestows. Eating from one loaf suggests our unity in Christ. We, who are individuals, are also one body. (2) As the grains of wheat, once scattered on a hill were gathered to become our bread, so may all your people from all ends of the earth, be gathered into one in you. (3)

In communion we are gathered and sent. Sharing one loaf communicates this as it must first be broken. "Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved. In our living and our dying we become what we receive." (4) Our faith can be seen in giving our time, talents and our selves for a world in need.

### Health Concerns

For those with Celiac disease, allergies or wheat/gluten intolerance, we may have gluten-free wafers.

Other concerns may allow the use of grape juice on the altar. Whether we use a whole loaf, unleavened or wafers, we receive the gift of bread in gratitude, trusting Christ's real presence in this sacrament.

1. The Use of the Means of Grace 2. Didache 3. Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p, 465) 4. Susan Briehl



**Family Game Day**  
**Saturday, October 12**  
**2:00 – 5:00 pm**

Join us for family fun, games and fellowship followed by our Community Campfire Worship.

Join us for  
**Ecumenical**  
**Community Campfire Worship**  
**Saturday October 12th at 5:30 P.M.**



On the lawn at  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
420 Beaver Street, Mars

Worship & Songs  
Fellowship & s'mores following worship  
Bring your own lawn chair or blanket  
as we gather around the fire  
to share the light and love of Christ!

If there is inclement weather, worship will be indoors

***The second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday***

**Kramer 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Dinner & Bonfire  
Sunday, October 13, 2019**

*You're Invited*

Because our church family at St. John's has shared in and contribute to our lives as a family, we invite you to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of our parents – John & Karen Kramer.

Dinner will be from 3:00 – 5:00pm on October 13 at St. John Lutheran Church. **Please RSVP by October 3, 2019 to Sherry at 724-612-7305 or 724-759-7122.**

A bonfire will follow dinner and will be at 225 Brickyard Road, Mars. Please park at the Mars Elementary Baseball Field.

After 50 years, they need nothing more. The very best present is you at the door.

~ Melissa, Rhonda, Sherry, Dan & Cliff ~

**Baby Shower  
Saturday, November 9, 2019  
2:00 – 5:00 pm**



Everyone is invited to a baby shower celebrating Maizy and Dan Fisher's upcoming bundle of joy!

Invitations with all the details are in the greeting area by the baby shower bag. Please take one, and don't forget to grab their registry information and your "Diaper Raffle" entry form.

If you will attend, please complete the **RSVP** form at the bottom of the invitation and place it in the baby shower bag **by Sunday, October 20**. If you have any questions, please speak with Christine or Ruth Ann.

**Fellowship Breakfast  
Sunday, October 6**



Join us between worship services for good food and fellowship.  
Hope to see you there!



**Saturday, October 26  
Beginning at 8:00 am**

Please join us if you are able to help with cleaning up the church grounds. Many hands make lighter work. All help will be appreciated.



**Ladies Book Group  
Wednesday, October 16 – 3:00 pm**

Our current reading material is "Eligible," a modern version of Pride and Prejudice and is quite entertaining. If you would like to join us, speak to Sally Foster.

**Kid's Club  
October 25  
6:30-8:00 pm**



Music, Bible Story, Crafts,  
Games & Snacks.  
Ages 3-8.

Bring a friend, neighbor or relative!

**Chair Aerobics  
Mondays at 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.

**Quilting Group  
October 14 – 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.



- 10/02 Francis & Grace Kratz – 71 years
- 10/10 Robert & Christine Dishong – 21 years
- 10/13 David & Ellen Hrach – 18 years
- 10/17 Frederick & Susan Bielo – 32 years
- 10/20 James & Denise Hager – 40 years
- 10/22 Charles & Anne Olescyski – 53 years
- 10/25 Reed & Kimberly Richards – 16 years



10/11 Marlene Strabel  
10/17 Ruth Bielo  
10/20 Melissa Kramer  
10/22 Amy Adams  
10/22 Charles "Bob" Davidson  
10/24 Kimberly Richards  
10/26 Carolyn Zimmerman  
10/27 Denise Julio  
10/28 Grant Werner  
10/30 Karen Schulz

**Upcoming Events**  
November 9 – Baby Shower  
November 10 – Celebration Sunday –  
1 service at 10:00 am  
November 16 – Pancake Breakfast

**Communion Bread Schedule**  
October, Nov., Dec. – Denise Hager  
  
**Counters for October**  
Carolyn Jarrett & Valerie Cardinal

**Worship Helpers**  
**October**  
**October 6 & 13**  
**Assisting Ministers**  
8:00 am Dave Knauff  
10:30 am Carol Zimmerman  
**October 20 & 27**  
**Assisting Ministers**  
8:00 am Dave Knauff  
10:30 am (20<sup>th</sup>) Cardinal/  
(27<sup>th</sup>) D. Hager  
  
**Ushers**  
8:00 am  
10:30 am Carolyn Jarrett

# October Newsletter

Address service requested

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