

June
2020

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
Church Office: (724) 625-1830
Office email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor Bob's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org
Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

Dear friends in Christ,

As we enter June, it has been two and a half months that we have been on this journey of solitude, together. I give thanks for our congregation's leadership that has kept both mission and safety in front of them as we have gone through this challenging time. I give thanks for your continued faithfulness as we gather for worship and Sunday School, and ministry meetings on Zoom. I give thanks for creative Sunday School activities online, for people singing in their homes during worship, and bearing with technical difficulties and spotty internet connections. I give thanks for your faithful support for our ministry together, not only for St. John, but also assisting those in need through this quarter's mission emphasis giving. We have demonstrated that the church has never closed, but has found new ways to be the church together-while apart.

The immediate crisis of the pandemic seems to be lessening in our area, and we may in a few weeks be in the "green phase" of this recovery. Green however will not be back to normal, as many health limitations will still be in place. The congregation council has appointed a task force to review state and CDC requirements and guidelines from the wider church and to put into place a plan for our safe return to in person worship. There are many things to consider from cleaning issues, and maintaining social distancing to maintaining an online worship presence for those uncomfortable or unable to gather. The safe return to office hours in the building also will depend on a having a plan in place for sanitation and social distancing. Please be patient as a sensible strategy is implemented and we begin the transition process.

In this newsletter you will find a survey to complete as we look ahead. Following the mandate at our annual meeting, the elders are proceeding with our evangelism emphasis, confident that ministry goes on. We continue to look ahead, to be the church together for the sake of the world. To be people gathered by the Spirit (whether virtually or in person) to worship, share, and serve in Christ's name.

As we continue to find our way in this ever changing and uncertain time we pray:

"Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen."

(Prayer of the Day, 18th Sunday after Pentecost A, ELW pg. 49)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton scheduled to preach on Sunday June 7th



The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will provide a pre-recorded Sunday sermon for Trinity Sunday, June 7th that will be shared at our online ZOOM worship at 9:00 AM

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop was reelected to serve a second six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Eaton earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the College of Wooster. Eaton was ordained in 1981 and served three different congregations in Ohio before being elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod in 2006. Eaton's four emphases for the ELCA are: "We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; We are church for the sake of the world." These four emphases are fundamental to identifying who the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is.

To participate in our worship on Zoom go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411>,
Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Gift Cards Available

A Message from the Mission Endowment and Outreach Committee

Because of the current situation caused by the Covid-19 virus, loss of jobs and income has become critical in the ability to put food on the table for many. Our theme this year for the Mission Endowment and Outreach Committee is to "feed the world". The world has become much smaller as we become concerned about our church family and community. At our meeting on Sunday, April 19th, this quickly became the topic of discussion and what could we do about it. What we all agreed to do is to use the money from our 2nd quarter distribution to provide Giant Eagle gift cards for people in need in our congregation and community.

The distribution of the gift cards will be strictly confidential. Pastor Zimmerman will have the gift cards and only he will know who they are given to. **If you or your family needs assistance or you know someone in the community who does, please contact Pastor Zimmerman 412-585-1628.**

We have no idea when this crisis will end and people will "get back on their feet" so please do not suffer in silence or go hungry. Let Pastor know if we can help you.

If you wish to help in this endeavor you can contribute to our 2nd quarter using the mission emphasis envelopes.

Thank you for continuing to give as you are able, as our ministry and mission of sharing Christ's love continues. Your prayers, your offerings, and your creative service even while practicing social distancing is inspiring. Truly you are God's hands, eyes, heart, and feet in this world. You can mail your offering envelopes to the church, or go to our website to arrange to give electronically.
www.stjohnchurchmars.org



Sunday, May 31 is Pentecost Sunday. We ask that if possible you wear red for our online service at 10:00 am.

Also, on **Sunday, June 7** we will return to our summer schedule and worship time will be at 9:00 am.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings and Worship Services

Sunday May 31 Online Worship – 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Summer schedule as of June 7 - Worship will be at 9:00 AM.

Tuesday June 2, 7:00 PM - Reopening Task Force

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Every Wednesday through June 17 – 1:00 PM – “Making Sense of the Cross”

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Thursday, June 4 - 7:00 PM – Elders Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Sunday June 7 - Online Worship – 9:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Summer schedule as of June 7 - Worship will be at 9:00 AM.

Sunday, June 7 – 1:00 PM – Trustees Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Thursday, June 11 - 7:00 PM - St. John Congregation Council

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

Thursday, June 18 - 7:00 PM - St. John Executive Committee

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO GROW THE CHURCH AND BRING IN NEW MEMBERS!

At a recent Council meeting a survey on how to grow the church and promote evangelism was approved.

Please review the following survey and select those items that you best feel would match your abilities and talent.

Upon returning to church there will be a congregation meeting to further discuss the survey and your role in helping St. John to "grow the church".

Completed copies can then be placed in the mailbox near the office when we return to worship in the sanctuary or returned to one of the Elders.

The Elders thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Recommendations on how to grow the church and bring in new members:

Name: _____

	Assist with Planning (Before)	Assist with Activity (During)	Take the Lead of Activity	Donate Items
Community Event Day/Evening at the church on the lawn. Church tour, campfire worship, sing-a-long, movie with popcorn and snacks				
Phone tree to call members that don't get out to check on them as well as "Missing members" from worship				
Advertising - Increase social media presence other than just Facebook, post fliers on Community/Clubhouse bulletin boards, yard signs (i.e. WeRhere4U.com - link to website) at intersections/member yards. Upgrade website (possibly professionally)				
Make church more visible - Upgrade/replace sign, light up front of church and steeple at night				
Sponsor a public speaker (Anchor Point) nights on various subjects - Finances, Parenting, Drug/Alcohol Addiction, Sexuality, Assisted Living, etc...				
Christmas caroling cookie giveaway in the community				
First Responder Sunday - Invite and recognize 1st responders to breakfast and worship when the Sunday falls on the 1st day of the month (Next occurrence is November 1, 2020)				
Community carwash activity for both youth and adults				
Increase Community presence - Applefest, Community Days, Mars New Year, and other events where interest is shown				
Produce a church history/memory book in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary				
Youth Group Events & Bring your own friends - Lutherlyn LEEP, Fun Fore All, Bowling, Trampolines, etc...				
Bring a friend to church day				



6/05 Gerald Brunson
6/05 Bill Schulz
6/06 Henry Ford
6/08 Cindy Knauff
6/12 Janet Senka
6/13 Laura Gold
6/14 Mason Adams
6/21 Katie Niklewicz
6/24 Reed Richards
6/25 Olivia Waldrop
6/26 Alaina Nagel
6/28 Abigail Cardinal
6/29 Gabriella Julio

June

Assisting Minister

Christine Dishong

Usher

Robert Dishong

Counters

Dave Knauff & Matt Claus



6/01 – Amy & Ryan Adams – 8 yrs.
6/07 – Steve & Kathleen Schnelle – 35 yrs.
6/11 – Jamie & Erin Weaver – 15 yrs.
6/26 – Bill & Karen Schulz – 56 yrs.
6/27 – Henry & Janet Ford – 57 yrs.

June Newsletter

Address service requested

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