

November
2022

St. John Lutheran Church



St. John Lutheran Church
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*Remember the days of old; consider the years long past;
ask your father, and he will inform you, your elders, and they
will tell you.*

Deuteronomy 32:7

Dear Church,

Throughout October, there was a lot of emphasis on getting ready for the 125th anniversary. I, for one, really enjoyed the opportunity to dig into St. John's past. I read old reports and the 100-years memory book. I spoke with members about their memories, and I read letters from and talked with previous pastors. I loved imagining how the church looked over the years, imagining how the church responded to all the cultural shifts that were going on in Mars and around the world during the 125 years that the church has been a voice of God's Good News in Mars, PA.

In 1897, there were 40-some people who had a vision for a congregation in Mars. That vision lives on today in the way we continue to live into the mission and ministry of St. John. There are some aspects of the church that are the same today that they were 125 years ago... like the message of God's love that we share, the importance of being a place of welcome for all, and the value we put on faith formation opportunities. How each of these things happen, though, probably looks quite different. But that's part of being a church in the world. The world is an ever-shifting landscape for ministry. An ever-fluctuating culture changes the way we approach and communicate things. And it has taken a lot of work and energy for St. John to continue to move with the world for 125 years. I have no idea what the next 125 years will bring. I do not know how culture will shift and evolve in the coming years. I do not know what worship or programs will look like. But I do know that St. John will continue to be a place... a family that strives to be a relevant presence in Mars, spreading God's grace and love, offering a place of welcome for people to come and hear God's Good News, and encouraging people to grow in their faith and relationship with God. No matter how culture changes, the world will always need a place like that. And I, for one, am glad St. John is here and ready to do the work of being that place.

Peace,
Pastor Katie

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.*

Online Worship Services

Join Zoom for service: <https://zoom.us/j/5663185411> Meeting ID: 566 318 5411 PW: Luther
Available on YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC35PpgMPeMgDRNmKkYKssxvQ>
and the church Facebook page: [St John Lutheran Church Mars PA](#) later in the day.

Serving Others

October, November, December Mission Emphasis

During the fourth quarter of the year, **our mission emphasis will be an organization called Always B Smiling.** From their website: “Always B Smiling strives to support children, families, and caregivers with life challenges by offering support and experiences that will inspire as many smiles as possible.



Always B smiling will be there to **encourage as many smiles as possible by offering support services to children, families, and caregivers with long term health challenges at Children’s Hospital.** Always B Smiling will address the many gaps outside of educational based programs by **creating community-based activities for children and families with special needs.”** To support this organization with your offering, please mark your envelope “Mission Emphasis.” To learn more about this organization, visit their website at <https://alwaysbsmiling.org/>.

Angel Tree



Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate in this opportunity to **brighten the holiday season for children and youth served by Glade Run Lutheran Services** by getting a gift for a child or family in need! Beyond the gifts under the tree, donated items received through Glade Run’s annual drive provide joy, relief, and comfort all year long.

Around the Community

Local Thanksgiving Worship Service – November 23

If you are looking for a worship opportunity around the Thanksgiving holiday, **Valencia Presbyterian Church** will be holding a Thanksgiving Eve service on **Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.** The church can be found at **80 Sterrett St, Valencia, PA 16059.**



Mars Light Up Night – November 26



Mars Borough is once again hosting Light Up Night! This year, Light Up Night will include a **Holiday Market** on Pittsburgh St from 4:00-8:00 p, **Tree Lighting** at the Saucer at 5:30 p, and a **Parade** at 6:00 p. Hope to see you there!

For more information, visit marsborough.com/light-up-mars

Lutherlyn Advent Retreat – December 2-4

Each year, Lutherlyn hosts an Advent Retreat. The Advent Retreat offers families an opportunity to spend time together **celebrating the advent season for a weekend** while enjoying Lutherlyn. The weekend registration fee includes lodging, meals, program, and the supplies for each activity.

Registration deadline is November 21, 2022. For more information, including a tentative schedule and registration details, visit lutherlyn.com/advent.



Around the Church



Trunk or Treat – October 31

Come join us for our **Trunk or Treat Event during Mars Trick or Treating (Monday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 pm)**! Costumes are welcome too!

New Member Class – November 3

As we prepare to welcome new members to St. John, **potential new members** are getting together to **talk a little bit about Lutheranism and the ELCA** as well as how folks have **been involved with and supported by St. John**. We will be officially welcoming our new members on December 4th.

New Member Class will **begin at 7:00 pm** at the church on November 3.



Family Game Night – November 11

Join us for a **family friendly game night** at the church! We will have a number of **board games and decks of cards** available, but feel free to bring your favorite game to share! We will have **pizza and pop for an easy game-night dinner**. We'll get the **games started at 6:00 pm**, and order pizza shortly afterward.



Meals on Wheels Cookie Baking – December 3

Mark your calendars now for an **epic baking party!** We will bake cookies for the participants in the Meals on Wheels program for several weeks. It's going to be an **all hands-on deck affair!** We will plan to **start baking at 9:00 am**. Stay tuned for more information! We will also be sharing how you can participate by **baking at home** and bringing in your creations pre-baked.



Children and Youth

Youth Group Homeless Sleepout – Nov 18-19

Homelessness affects more people than we often realize, and the colder weather adds to the challenges faced by those without a home with heat. To help our youth **understand the challenge of homelessness**, we will be hosting a Homeless Sleepout. We will have **challenges and learning opportunities** throughout the event, and youth will be **sleeping outside in makeshift shelters**. We will gather on the lawn at **6p on Nov 18 and will camp out until 11a on Nov 19**.



Kids' Club Service-Learning Event – Nov 20

One of the goals of our joint Kids' Club is to help the children connect with the community through service opportunities. During our **regular meeting time on November 20 (1:00-2:30 p)**, we will be focusing on **learning about the needs present right in our community and how kids can serve and support our neighbors**.



Worship Notes

Reformation Sunday – October 30



October 31 is a celebration of the legendary night when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church door to inspire debate in protest of the selling of indulgences in 1517. Because this is remembered as the tipping point for the beginning of the Protestant Reformations, we celebrate in church on the last Sunday of October by remember reformations of the past and all the ways the church is continuing to reform. This year will be an extra special Reformation Sunday with the celebration of St. John's 125th anniversary as a congregation. To add to the fun, we invite you to wear red to worship!

125th Anniversary – October 30

St. John will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on **October 30th in worship and with a celebratory meal. Sunday School and Faith Formation Classes will be at 9:00 am and worship will be at 10:00 am.** We are excited to have Bishop Kusserow join our worship for this day! After worship there will be a time for remembering the last 125 years, imagining the next 125 years, and enjoying a delicious catered meal in the basement. **RSVPs were due September 25, so please contact the office ASAP if you have not submitted yours!**



All Saints Worship – November 6



Commemorating the saints of the church has been a practice since the 4th century. In the 8th century, the festival commemorating all saints was set on November 1st. Protestant churches (including Lutherans) believe that all Christian dead are saints, and there is no need for release from purgatory. In our bulletin on November 6, we will be remembering all our loved ones who have died. **As we remember them, we recall the witness they gave through their lives, what they meant to us as fellow Christians, where they have led the way, and what they have left for us yet to accomplish.**

If you would like to remember a loved one, please submit names to the office.

All information must be received by the office by Sunday, October 30th

Youth-Led Worship – November 13

We will be celebrating communion in a **joint worship service with Mars United Presbyterian** on November 13th. This service will be **created and led by the children and youth** participating in our Kids' Club and Youth Group. It's so important to nurture our young people's ability to lead us in worship, and we look forward to this semi-annual joint worship service. Please plan to join us! **Worship will be at St. John's at 9:00 am as usual with a coffee hour and Sunday School following.**



Celebration of Confirmation – November 20

During worship on November 20th, we will be witnessing Serafina **affirm the promises made on her behalf at her baptism**. This is a momentous moment in a young person's life. In this service, Serafina will stand in front of the congregation and take responsibility for her own faith formation and **begin this next chapter in her faith life**.



Advent Begins – November 27

Advent is the **season of preparation** as we get ready for Christmas. Regardless of what day of the week Christmas is, Advent is always the **four Sundays leading up to Christmas**. Join us in worship as we wait for the coming Christ child and get ready for the gift of Christmas. Make sure your child gets their own **Advent calendar to count down** to Christmas during worship on the first Sunday of Advent. And if you and/or your family would like to volunteer to participate in worship by **helping with lighting the Advent Wreath, please contact the office!**



Worship Helpers

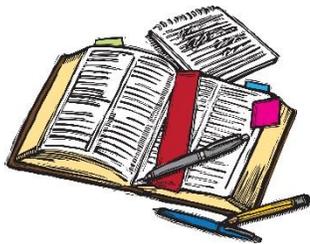
We love having our young worshippers helping with worship leadership! If you are unable to be present for your scheduled service, please try to find someone to cover and tell the office of the change.

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering
6-Nov	Anna K	Ava N	Emma N
13-Nov	Joint Youth Service		
20-Nov	Olivia C	Jules K	Abigail C
27-Nov	Abigail C	Luca K	Eva K

Faith Formation

Advent Bible Study

We will be diving into some **Advent themes and scripture stories** as we get ready to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. **We will meet on the Mondays in Advent (Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12, and Dec 19) at 7:00 pm**. A Zoom link will be available for those unable to join us in person; **sign up with the church office to receive emails with notes and the zoom link** each week of the session.



Trip Opportunity

Hope Lutheran in Cranberry is exploring the possibility of taking a bus trip to see **Moses at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA in October 2023**. The cost is estimated to be around \$500 per person. The typical trip has an overnight, breakfast at the hotel, dinner, and a show one night, lunch and time for shopping, and another dinner and the big show the next night. **If you are interested in this trip, please contact Pastor Katie.**



An Advent Activity

Attention glue gun slingers and craft store fanatics, here I got a project for you!



Go find five tealight candles, five mason jars, a small box, some blue or purple paint, glue, and something to use as a base (think of the cardboard base of a frozen pizza).

Then paint four of the mason jars blue (or three purple and one pink), glue them onto the base, and put tea lights inside the jars. Then set the box in the center and put the Advent Centerpiece Wreath you've just made in a place of gathering in your home or a place you regularly spend time (i.e., a dining table).

Next to the Advent Centerpiece, place a stack of small papers and a pen to be used throughout the coming Advent season.

As many times as you'd like throughout the week, do as follows:

- Between **November 27th and December 3rd** light one tealight, and consider the following question: "What has made me **hopeful** about the future this week?" Write down or draw what you all come up with and put it into the box. As you put your paper in the box, pray for God to continue to offer you hope in your life.
- Between **December 4th and 10th** light two tealights, and consider the following question: "Where have I found **peace** this week?" Write down or draw what you all come up with and put it into the box. As you put your paper in the box, pray for God to continue to offer you peace in your life.
- Between **December 11th and 17th** light three tealights, and consider the following question: "What has given me **joy** this week?" Write down or draw what you all come up with and put it into the box. As you put your paper in the box, pray for God to continue to offer you joy in your life.
- Between **December 18th and 24th** light all four tealights, and consider the following question: "Where have I found **love** this week?" Write down or draw what you all come up with and put it into the box. As you put your paper in the box, pray for God to continue to offer you love in your life.
- Then, on Christmas morning or any of the **12 days of Christmas** before Epiphany on January 6th, remove the box, replace it with the 5th mason jar and tea light. **Light all five of the candles and read through all the hope, peace, joy, and love** accrued over the season of Advent! All a blessing come to full fruition in Christmas!

May the coming Christ bless you all!

*Please take these materials as a suggestion and have fun modifying it as makes sense for you!
Originally created by Pastor Chris Halverson (ELCA) in 2017.

November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Deacon's Meeting Elder's Meeting 7 pm	2 Rediscovering the Bible 7 pm	3 New Members Class 7 pm	4	5
6 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School Trustee's 10:15 am Youth Group 1pm Kids Club 1 pm	7	8	9 Rediscovering the Bible 7 pm	10	11 Family Game Night 6 pm	12
13 Joint Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	14 Pastor at First Call	15 Council Meeting 7 pm	16 Worship Planners 7 pm	17	18 Homeless Sleepover @ St. John 6:00 pm - 11:00 am	19
20 Confirmation Worship 9:00 am Sunday School Kids Club Service Learning Event 1-2:30	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22	23	24	25	26 Mars Light Up Night
27 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	28	29	30			



- 11/02 Ariel "Buzz" Kelly
- 11/05 Tanya Nagel
- 11/07 Michael Sauers
- 11/07 David Knauff
- 11/14 Katie McClure
- 11/17 Cheryl Davidson
- 11/17 Linda Sabbagh
- 11/22 Brooke Claus
- 11/23 Nancy McCormick



- 11/01 Matthew & Jeannette Claus – 36 yrs.
- 11/03 Keith & Valerie Cardinal – 21 yrs.
- 11/05 Charles & Cheryl Davidson – 45 yrs.

Serving in Worship

Assisting Minister

Martha Ward

Ushers

Larry Werner

Counters

Sherry Davidson & Kelly Greb

Bread Baker

Reed Richards

November Newsletter

Address service requested

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