

September
2025

St. John Lutheran Church



St. John Lutheran Church
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Please call to ensure availability before coming to the office.

"Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand, [says the Lord]"

Isaiah 41:10 (CEB)

"The invitation is to begin" This is a quote from our summer book study "Real Faith for Real Life" by Michael Foss. In the book, Foss walks his readers through different markers or disciplines of discipleship. Yet as we read through the book, it was easy to feel like there was an endless list of things we can and should do better, more often, more thoroughly as disciples, learners, and followers of Christ. And as you read this month's newsletter, it can feel like there is too much even just here at St. John! It can be overwhelming! Faith is a big topic. There are many different components to being a disciple of Christ, and there are countless ways we are invited to consider what difference faith makes in our daily lives and how we can further develop our life as a Christian. So in encouragement, I return to the quote with which I began this reflection: "The invitation is to begin." Wherever you are on your faith journey – whether you are just starting out, whether you are returning after a long hiatus, or whether you have been steeped in faith for your entire life, the invitation is not to suddenly do everything more, better, more deeply, etc. The invitation is to take the next step in your faith journey. What is one thing that you can do this month that will help nourish you on your journey of faith?

Foss encourages people to think about the six markers or disciplines of discipleship: Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Daily Bible Reading, Serving in and beyond the Congregation, Nurturing Relationships, and Giving a Tithe and Beyond. And as you read this newsletter that is full of opportunities for you to engage with any one of these markers of discipleship, I invite you to begin. Begin to deepen your relationship with Christ, further your connection to faith, and live more fully as a beloved child of God. You don't have to suddenly be the epitome of any of these things. You just have to begin. And when you don't know where or how to begin, when the options seem limitless and you don't know how to jump in, I offer you one more phrase that has been a refrain for me this summer through various trainings: low hanging fruit is still fruit. Start with something that feels approachable and doable. If signing up to be the greeter for the entire month feels like too much of a commitment, start with one week. If diving deeply into the Nicene Creed feels too challenging, try staying after worship for an extra hour to explore the Small Catechism. The invitation is to begin. And this is a safe place for you to take whatever faltering step is next for you, for God is with you, guiding your steps, calling you ever forward in faith.

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 God's name to **worship** and praise God; and we go forth in peace to **share** the Good News and to **serve** the world around us.*

Find Us on Social Media

Like us on **Facebook** (@stjohnchurchmars) or Follow us on **Instagram** (@stjohnchurchmars)

Online Sunday Worship

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

Available on our **YouTubeChannel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@St.JohnLutheranChurch-2>

Worship Notes

Young Worship Leaders

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

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering	Young Reader
7-Sept	Lydia M	Ava N	Ella N	
14-Sept	Ella N	Lydia M	Cate S	
21-Sept	Carissa M.	Ella N	Abby C	Carissa M
28-Sept	Ava N	Jules K	Anna K	
5-Oct	Nathan K	Josie W	Carissa M	

Adult Worship Leaders

	Greeters	Usher	Assistant Minister	Bread Baker	Counters
7-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	Denise H	Valerie C Cora S
14-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	Denise H	Valerie C Cora S
21-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	Denise H	Valerie C Cora S
28-Sept	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Valerie C	Denise H	Valerie C Cora S
5-Oct	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Keith C David D

Volunteer Spotlight: Greeters

Whether it is someone's first time or thousandth time coming to St. John for worship, **it is nice to be greeted with a welcoming smile as they enter.** Greeters hand out **bulletins** (at both entrances to the sanctuary), offer **welcome gifts** to visitors, remind people to **wear nametags**, and assist with any **special directions for the day** (e.g., handing out streamers for Pentecost or inviting backpacks to be placed by the altar for the Blessing of the Backpacks.). **Sign up to be a Greeter** in the Greeting Area, online at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>, or using the member portal on the website!

Calling Musicians!

Do you play a musical instrument? Would you like to bless the worship service with your talent? We are looking to have some musicians help in worship music leadership. Contact Pastor Katie to learn more about this opportunity to use your gifts in worship.

Dinner Church – September 9th

At the beginning of the Christian movement, people gathered around a full meal. People would come from different walks of life and gather around the table. They would eat together. They would read scripture together. They would discuss what the scripture meant to them and support one another in the efforts to live as followers of Jesus in their daily lives. And they would celebrate God's grace given in the gift of Holy Communion.

Dinner Church brings us back to this relational worship style where all are welcomed and all are fed in body and soul as we gather in community around the Word and the table – the dinner table and the Lord's table. You are invited. There is a seat for you at the table! We begin at 6:00 pm and typically end around 7:30 pm.



Children are welcome to participate at whatever level is comfortable for them. If they do not wish to sit at the table during the discussion, there is onsite childcare in the playroom, where children may eat their dinner and watch a faith-related video.

Bible Distribution – Sept. 14



Having a personal Bible is an important part of our faith journey. **To help our children on their faith journeys, we give students Bibles that are age appropriate every few years. We will be presenting new students to each class a Bible during worship on September 14th.** Students entering their first year of preschool receive a copy of the Frolic Preschool Bible, students in 1st grade receive the Whirl Story Bible, students in 3rd grade receive a full Bible using the CEB (Contemporary English Bible) translation, and students in 6th grade receive the Collaborate Study Bible. We encourage all students to bring their Bibles to class. **If you would like to financially contribute to this faith formation milestone, donations can be designated "Bible."**

Blessing of the Quilts – Date TBD

You have probably noticed that the Sanctuary is adorned with quilts again! **These quilts were lovingly stitched together to provide warmth and comfort and care to people around the world served by Lutheran World Relief.** Before the quilts make their journey, we will be praying over these quilts and for all who will receive them in our **annual Blessing of the Quilts September 24th during worship.** **Contact the office to find out how you can participate in this crafty ministry!**

Worshipping with Children

Know that your children, and their wiggles, are most welcome in worship on Sunday mornings! However, the service is often geared more towards adults, with lots of things happening that might all sound very similar to children. To help them **follow along every element of the worship service using age-appropriate language and activities**, we have children's bulletins that teach children about the full liturgy. There are stickers to go along with each level of reader. Our visually inclined young worshipers are invited to make shapes out of pipe cleaners following the prompts in the bulletins. Our students who are still learning to read are invited to practice finding and writing sight words. And our young readers are offered opportunities to learn more about each element of worship with notes explaining what to do for our newest acolytes. **Grab a bulletin for your young worshiper in the Greeting Area next Sunday!** There are also worship bags that can be filled with coloring books, fidgets, and/or books that children are welcome to take into the sanctuary. And if your child needs a break from the service, know that you are always welcome to use the playroom in the lower level by the elevator.

Around the Synod

National ELCA Book Study: “See Me, Believe Me”

From the synod’s Authentic Diversity and Justice team: All are invited to a national book club and prayer celebration as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries prepare to welcome leaders of color into their most visible leadership positions. Every Thursday at 12pm EST from September 4th - October 9th we will pray for them and empower ourselves for supportive action, while building joyful community through a book study using the book “See Me, Believe Me” by Yolanda Denson Byers. You don't want to miss these stories, surprise special guests, and valuable skill build tips!

Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3jb83b>

If purchasing a book is a barrier to participation, there is an option to request a subsidized copy at registration.

Annual Stewardship Learning Event – October 11

Our presenter Dr. Mark Allan Powell, an ordained Lutheran Pastor in the ELCA and a leading New Testament scholar and author of “Giving to God” among numerous other books and articles. We are excited to welcome Dr. Powell to the SWPA Synod to share his knowledge of the Bible and Stewardship. He is presenting on the following topics:

Stewardship as Mission – A New Vision for the Church
Belonging to God – The Biblical Basis for Stewardship
Faithful Living – Money and Discipleship
Duty and Delight – Motivating Generosity

Please join us to welcome him and show how the people of Southwestern PA are eager to grow our understanding of who we are called to be.

\$20 per person; includes lunch; Registration ends October 5, 2025

For more information and to register for the event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/39pbku4f>

Installation of Bishop-Elect Stoller – October 18



The Rev. Melissa L. Stoller was elected on June 13 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. She is the first woman to hold the position of Bishop in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod. **“In these liminal times, it is important that we strengthen our ties,” Rev. Stoller said, “so that we may be Church together, communities of justice of hope, sharing the Good News with our neighbors.”**

Rev. Stoller has served as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the SWPA Synod since 2017. Prior to this role, she was Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook, Minnesota, and Intern Pastor at the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy in Russia. Before entering ordained ministry, she worked in housing and healthcare advocacy for the Minnesota Senior Federation. Her current synod leadership includes stewardship coaching, transitional ministry training, and vocational formation initiatives.

Rev. Stoller begins the work of bishop on September 1, and will be installed on Sat., October 18, 1 PM at Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, 517 Sangree Rd, Pgh, PA 15237.

Register by September 15 at <https://form.jotform.com/252015620046141>

Lutherlyn

Worship at Lutherlyn – Sept 7

You are invited to worship at Lutherlyn throughout the year. **Everyone is welcome and invited to join the Lutherlyn staff and other lovers of Lutherlyn in the Amphitheater** for worship on September 7th. Communion Worship starts at 3:30pm (plan to arrive early to allow time to park and walk to worship). If it is raining, we will worship in Baker Chapel. No RSVP is needed.

Family Halloween Fun at Lutherlyn – October 26

Register by October 19th for an afternoon at Lutherlyn full of Halloween fun! There will be hay rides, Halloween-themed carnival games, crafts, s'mores, a nature activity, scavenger hunt, and access to the jump pillow and discovery room! Registration is \$8/person and each family is asked to bring candy/items to pass out for trick-or-treating. Learn more and register at lutherlyn.com/Halloween.

Stewardship

Stewardship Corner

From Living Lutheran, July 28, 2015 by Laurel Hensel "Helping kids learn stewardship":

Sometimes the best way to learn is to teach what you want to know. If I wanted to be a role model for my children, I needed to improve my understanding of stewardship. Here's what I learned:

- Stewardship is about gratitude, not guilt. God is a generous God and has blessed us richly, beyond anything we deserve. God expects us to be generous, too, through gifts of our time, ourselves and our possessions. Trust God completely, even if you think you won't have enough. To be a good steward, you must practice giving. To be generous, you must practice generosity.
- Stewardship is a response, not a reaction. The Holy Spirit moves us to give – not so that we can get something back. Through baptism God has already promised us eternal life. This I believe: Giving is a spiritual act. When we follow God wholeheartedly, we experience God's grace and freedom to live generously.
- Stewardship is about mission, not about budget. We give as a response to God's love, not because our congregation needs money. Together we can do so much more than we can do alone to further God's work in the world. God is moved not by the amount of our giving but the trust and love that the gifts symbolize.
- Stewardship is an act of worship. One of my stewardship mentors wrote, "On the day of worship, set aside an offering. If we give when we worship, we will give regularly. We cannot give what we have not received, but we can withhold what we have received." ("Generous People," Eugene Grimm, Abingdon Press, 1992).

Nobody said this would be easy. To promise to support God's ministry with our financial resources may take a little courage. Whenever we feel challenged to stretch and grow, remember this from Ephesians 3:20: "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine," Ask God to ease your fear of giving and give you the courage to act.

As we learn how to steward everything God has given us, my prayer is that we do so with a grateful heart and a joyful spirit. At 10 years old, my daughter showed that she had truly caught on. She insisted her offering envelope get to church even when she couldn't. When I asked her why this was so important to her, she said, "Because it makes me feel good."

Serving Others

God's Work Our Hands Sunday – September 7

We are going to be observing God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Sunday again this year! **On this Sunday we will restructure our worship to incorporate a service project as an integral part of how we worship.** This service reminds us that we worship not only with our words and our thoughts but also with our actions. We will include an element of service in our worship as we assemble goodie bags for our local police departments. Donations needed for the bags include gator aid, car air fresheners, pens, note pads, snacks (cheese/peanut butter crackers etc.).

St. John Food Pantry

There are many times that people bring food and take food from the little food pantry without anyone ever seeing them. But every now and then Pastor Katie gets to connect with a person. And always, the people receiving the gifts of this blessing box are deeply appreciative for the assistance. **There are many reasons why a person may find themselves unable to buy the necessities in any given month, so in our faith-driven commitment to love our neighbor, we offer food, cleaning supplies, paper products, and more through our little food pantry.** You can participate in this meaningful ministry by bringing in an extra can of chili beans (a request) or easy to prepare meals (another request) or paper/cleaning products (another request) or any other shelf-stable item. Please be sure any donated items have not yet expired. And whenever you have a few moments, keep the pantry hospitable by checking expiration dates and reshelving things to keep everything tidy. **Thank you for your continued generosity in providing care to our neighbors in need.**

3rd Quarter Mission Emphasis: Mars Area Public Library

The mission of Mars Area Public Library is to inform, educate, entertain, and culturally enrich by providing books, library materials, facilities, and professional services for all individuals in our area. As a fundraiser for their programs, the library hosts a Fall Book Sale held during Applefest. If you have books at home ready to be passed on to another reader, this may be a great opportunity to clear some space on your bookshelves and help the library replenish their supply for this year's Fall Book Sale. **Good condition books for donation may be dropped off Aug 31st through Sept 14th.** Bins will be available under the tables in the greeting area. **If you would like to financially support the mission emphasis, mark your envelope "Mission Emphasis."**



With generous support, the Mars Area Public Library continues to provide a collection of new and relevant materials, technology, computer access, and free events for all ages and interests, striving to meet the ever changing needs of the community. Your contribution assures that the Mars Area Public Library will continue to be the place where everyone can learn, discover and explore through library operations, community programs, and expansion of their collection.

Community Garden

As the weather gets chillier, things are slowing down very quickly in the garden. So please be sure to stop by the garden and pick whatever looks good!



Harvest Street Mission – November 30

Save the date for serving on the North Shore for November 30th!

Around the Church

Share the bounty!

How does your garden grow? **If you have an abundance of harvest in your home garden, share the bounty with your neighbors!** Bring your extra produce to worship on Sundays and place it on the doors by the elevator. If you're looking to enjoy homegrown produce, take what you want!

Community Bulletin Board

Is your child in an activity? Do they have a play or concert coming up? Or a game schedule that they can share? What about you? Are you in a group that performs or a community sports league? **Let's support one another by inviting one another to celebrate our joys and passions the world!**

There is a new section on the bulletin board near the library for you to post fliers and notices for upcoming events to which you would like to invite people to attend.

Office Hours Update

Diane is currently in the office one day a week, working other hours remotely or in the office on a flexible schedule. **Currently, she will be in the office on Thursday mornings.** If you need access to the building or assistance with anything, please call ahead to assure availability. Pastor Katie will also be in the office throughout the week and can provide assistance.

Website Member Portal

Have you signed up for the new members portal on the website? When you visit the website at stjohnchurchmars.org, there is an option to "log in" in the upper right corner. When you log in, you will have access to a member portal. Here you can offer ways to connect with other members, access the latest directory, access the online sign-up board at <https://signup.com/go/JPakfVA>, or view the current vestry. To help keep members safe, the office will approve membership requests.

Do you have other things you'd like to find on the members portal? Tell Pastor Katie!

St. John T-Shirts!



We had some great ideas submitted for our St. John T-Shirts! Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas and voted! It was a very close vote, but unfortunately, we can only have one church shirt design (for now!). Because all of the designs were so creative, we want to celebrate them, so there are already ideas in the works of how we can use the other submitted designs in other capacities. The winning design is the simple ELCA



logo on the front with the Christ window on the back, with one minor change to include the joyful phrase "Let there be CAKE!" The top color choices were aquatic blue, cool mint, azalea, deep purple, Irish green heather, and jade.

Murder Mystery Dinner – September 13

A new thing is coming to St. John!

At 5:00pm on September 13th, a troupe of actors from Mystery's Most Wanted will fill the basement with mystery and laughter as we eat dinner together and sort out the great Whodunit of the night. **You can buy your ticket now from the Deacons. Tickets are \$25/person** for this adult-only event. If you need help contacting a Deacon, the office can provide contact information. Mark your calendars now and get ready for a unique event!



Applefest – October 4

Applefest is a big deal in Mars, so this is a great opportunity to be an active presence in the community. It takes a lot of hands to get ready for the event as well as to be at the booth. Leading up to Applefest, we will need volunteers to make baked goods, make halushki, and bring other requested donated items. During Applefest, we will need people to be friendly representatives of St. John, selling food and drink, playing games with kids, and inviting people to learn more about this CAKE congregation. **Mark your calendars now** and talk to one of the Elders or Deacons, or Pastor Katie if you'd like to help!

Hospitality Hour Hosts

Being a faith community is so much more than just worshipping together. It's spending time in fellowship and learning together too! **To help us connect with this aspect of being a faith community, we will continue having hospitality hours downstairs after the worship service.** As we enjoy goodies offered by volunteers, **we will talk and play games together before the faith formation participants shift into their groups.** If you would like to volunteer to host the hospitality hour (we have the games covered), contact Denise H or the office.

Nextdoor Profile

Have you heard of the Nextdoor app? As they describe themselves, "Nextdoor is where your neighborhood comes together. From real-time alerts and accurate weather updates to trusted local news, community events, and a local marketplace, it's all in one place — made for your neighborhood, by your neighbors." **As a congregation committed to loving our neighbors and being connected to them, St. John now has a profile on Nextdoor.** Save us as a favorite, recommend us to your neighbors, and connect with what's happening in and through the congregation at <https://nextdoor.com/pages/st-john-lutheran-church-mars-pa/>.

Faith Formation

Messy Church – September 19th – NEW TIME



We know that life can get messy and it can be hard to get to Messy Church by 5:30pm sometimes, so we're shifting the start time to 6:00pm! We will still begin with our community dinner. **In Matthew 7:12, Jesus says,**

"Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets." (CEB). We call this the

Golden Rule. Jesus says this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Later in Matthew's gospel (22:34- 39), a legal expert asks Jesus what is the greatest commandment. Jesus says simply, love God with all you are and love your neighbor as yourself. **We will explore how**

we can practice loving our neighbors as ourselves in true Messy Church fashion: through a shared meal, through activities and crafts, and through singing and interactive storytelling and prayers.

All are welcome to this free opportunity for all ages to worship together in an inclusive and engaging environment.

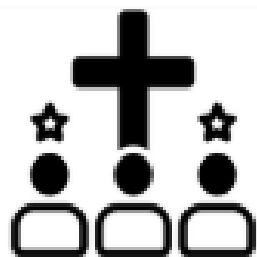


Adult Bible Study – Nicene Creed

The kids are back in school, time to think about how we continue our learning outside of worship! All are invited to weekly Bible studies in a hybrid environment (in person and via zoom). You can come on Wednesday or Sunday as your schedule permits each week. **We kick off the year with the**

Nicene Creed - the history surrounding its composition, the heresies it tackles, the holy scriptures it references, and how it still speaks to our faith today. If you would like to receive an outline of notes prior to each meeting, contact Pastor Katie. There is no pre-reading to do, or pre-knowledge expected though! Come as you are.

We will begin on Wednesday, September 10 (7:00pm) and Sunday, September 14 (6:30pm). Check out stjohnchurchmars.org/upcomingevents for links for zoom access.



Rally Day – September 7

On September 7, we will have our service worship day. Near the end of our scheduled time of worship, we will bless the faith learning environment and the teachers who will guide students in their exploration of faith during our Sunday School classes for all ages. **After worship, we will celebrate the kickoff of the academic year with Rally Day!** Do you know how many books are in the Bible? What is the longest book in the Bible? What is the most common name in the Bible? **Answer these questions and more at Bible Trivia while we eat ice cream sundaes at Rally Day!**

Sunday Faith Formation Hour for All Ages

Beginning on September 14th, we will be resuming our faith formation classes for all ages. We are so excited for some updates to our Sunday Faith Formation opportunities! **Everyone is welcome to join us in the lower level for goodies after worship. Around 10:15, we will play games to help increase Bible familiarity for all ages.** Then groups will divide by age for age-appropriate learning. **Our younger two classes** (pre-K through 1st grade and 2nd through 5th grade) will focus on stories from the Hebrew Bible, tracing the story of God's people from Genesis to Jesus. **Our eldest youth class** (6th through 12th grade) will explore faith in the context of their daily lives. **Adults** will explore what it means to be a Lutheran and how to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

For more detailed information regarding the topics covered each week this month, see the "Sunday Faith Formation Plans" on the next page. **At the end of the faith formation hour, all groups will come together again to sing songs and pray together.**

Grades 6-12 Youth Group

The Mars Area Youth Group (a joint venture between St. John and Mars United Presbyterian for youth in grades 6-12) will be **starting on September 14! Meetings are on Sunday afternoons (4-5:30pm) and approximately twice per month. We will have meetings in the church building and service-based and social-based events.** Meetings in the church building will be at Mars United Presbyterian (232 Crowe Ave). To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at** stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth.

Grades 2-5 Kids' Club

Our joint Kids' Club with Mars United Presbyterian (grades 2-5) will have its **first meeting on September 14! Meetings are on Sunday afternoons (4-5:30pm) and approximately twice per month. We will have meetings in the church building and service-based and social-based events.** Meetings in the church building will be at St. John Lutheran Church. To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at** stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth.

Faith Formation (continued)

Confirmation Class

We are excited to kick off our confirmation class this year! Confirmation is for students preparing to affirm their faith in front of the congregation. This year, we are excited to guide the students as they learn to use their voice to lead others in their faith learning, engage more fully in the life of the church, and ask more complicated questions of faith. Confirmation meets approximately monthly. We will have our first meeting on September 27th, 9:30 – 11:30 am (Don't worry, there will be doughnuts!).

Sunday Faith Formation Plans

Pre-K through 5th Grade

The Pre-K through elementary classes will explore stories of God's people in the Hebrew Bible through interactive storytelling and crafts. Students are asked to bring their Bibles to each class as they will be encouraged to find stories in their Bible, learning to mark their Bibles as they engage with the story. Students will be given a take-home sheet each week to help families continue the conversations at home. See below for a schedule of lessons to be covered each week this month:

September 14 – Introduction to the Bible and Sunday School Program

September 21 – Introduction to the Jesse Tree and God's Peaceful World (Isaiah 11:1-10)

September 28 – Creation (Genesis 2-3)

October 5 – Noah (Genesis 6-9)

Middle and High School

A note from the teacher, Ruth Ann: "A discussion sheet with Bible references will be provided each class session. We try to bring these discussions to a purposeful conclusion, always remembering the participants are kids! We use Bibles each session, and I am hoping students will bring their own personal Bibles. They will be encouraged to mark, highlight, and put notes in their Bibles for future assistance. Thank you for sending me these inquisitive young people. I will do my best to broaden their Biblical knowledge, connecting their faith to daily life."

Over the course of the year, students will explore the following topics:

- 1.) Do you believe in miracles?
- 2.) Stepping out of the boat, using the story of when Jesus and Peter walk on the water
- 3.) The seven "I am" statements of Jesus
- 4.) Mountaintop surprise – exploring the story of the Transfiguration

Adult Sunday Faith Formation

Adults will engage with the texts of faith through the lens of the Small Catechism using the **By Heart** curriculum. This class is revamped from its introduction in the spring. Each week we will tackle a different part of the Small Catechism with a sheet of thoughts and questions to promote conversation.

To learn more about the **By Heart** curriculum, visit stjohnchurchmars.org/byheart.

September 14 – Introduction and The Story of the Small Catechism

September 21 – The Ten Commandments

September 28 – The Apostles' Creed and The Lord's Prayer

October 5 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism *and* Confession

Did You Know?

The church website has an ongoing calendar! There is only so much room in the newsletter for upcoming events, but the website has all of them, including several months out! See the calendar at stjohnchurchmars.org/calendar.

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Elders Meeting, 7p	3	4	5	6
7 GWOH Worship Rally Day, 10:15a Deacons Meeting, 10:15a Trustees Meeting, 10:15a	8	9 Dinner Church, 6p	10 Bible Study, 7p	11	12	13 Murder Mystery Dinner, 5p
14 Worship, 9a <i>Bible Blessing during worship</i> Sunday School, 10:15a By Heart, 10:15a Kids Club/Youth Group, 4p Bible Study, 6:30p	15	16 Council Meeting, 7p	17 Bible Study, 7p	18	19 Messy Church, 6p	20
21 Worship, 9a Sunday School, 10:15a By Heart, 10:15a Kids Club/Youth Group, 4p Bible Study, 6:30p	22	23	24 Bible Study, 7p	25	26	27 Confirmation, 9:30a
28 Worship, 9a Birthday/Anniversary Celebration, 10:15a Sunday School, 10:15a By Heart, 10:15a Bible Study, 6:30p	29	30	Oct 1 Bible Study, 7p	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4 Applefest



9/02 Nicholas Claus Jr.
9/04 Larry Werner
9/06 Nicholas Claus
9/06 Henry Wach
9/09 Sally Foster
9/10 Winnie Stefko
9/15 Jamie Weaver
9/15 Sam Barill
9/17 Kelly Greb
9/27 Susan Fritz
9/27 Don Gross
9/30 Matthew Claus



9/29– William & Kelly Greb – 24 yrs.

September NEWSLETTER

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

Address service requested