

October
2023

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 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.*

St. John Lutheran Church
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"There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

While September is often considered the beginning of the academic year, October really kicks it into high gear! As the leaves change colors and we slide into fall, the church is bursting with life. So, I invite you to read this month's newsletter carefully as there is a lot happening in the coming month and months. Throughout this newsletter is a range of opportunities for you to be generous with your time, talents, and treasures through volunteering, giving, and participating. We have several key worship celebrations, multiple faith formation opportunities for people of all ages and all levels of connection with the church, evangelism and outreach community events, and of course opportunities to serve our neighbors near and far.

And in this variety of ministries and activities, there is ample opportunity to share hospitality and invite others to come and see that the Lord is good. Do you know someone who would like to learn more about the Bible and faith? Invite them to a Bible study or Sunday School! Do you know someone who is looking for an interactive, less formal way to connect with faith and the church? Invite them to Messy Church! Do you know someone looking to be generous? Invite them to one of our service opportunities! The list goes on and on! October is a busy month in the church, but I, for one, am excited for the way the church is bursting with life in this season. No one person can do it all, but together, as church, we can do incredible things. One of the beautiful things about being church is that we have a community comprised of many different spiritual gifts, a variety of ministries, and a diverse collection of activities, and in it all we are praising and worshiping the one Lord. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Pastor Katie

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 **YouTube Channel**: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC35PpgMPeMgDRNmKsYKssxvQ>

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 try to find someone to cover and tell the office of the change.

	Acolyte	Offering	Offering	Young Reader
1-October	Abigail C	Ava N	Emma N	
8-October	Anna K	Jules K	Abigail C	
15-October	Nathan K	Ava N	Ella N	
22-October	Ava N	Anna K	Nathan K	Carissa M
29-October	Emma N	Luca K	Eva K	
5-November	Abigail C	Ava N	Emma N	

Adult Worship Leaders

	Greeters	Usher	Assistant Minister	Bread Baker	Counters
1-October	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Tanya N Valerie C
8-October	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Tanya N Valerie C
15-October	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Tanya N Valerie C
22-October	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Tanya N Valerie C
29-October	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Tanya N Valerie C
5-November	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Missy K	Denise H	Missy K Jill W

Volunteer Spotlight: Ushers

Ushers are tasked with coming early to worship to turn on all the lights, unlock the exterior doors to the sanctuary, and ring the bell before worship. During worship, ushers ring the bell, count and record attendance, and help the children collecting offering know when to walk forward. After worship, ushers turn off the lights and make sure the exterior doors in the back of the sanctuary are fully latched and locked. **If you feel called to serve the church in this way, sign up in the Greeting Area!**

Flowers in Worship

Flowers are a beautiful addition to our worship space, and we are always grateful when people provide them! If you would like to **provide flowers for our altar during worship**, please sign up in the Greeting Area. If you have questions about the logistics of the flowers, contact the church office.

Adult Choir

For major festivals (like Reformation Sunday!), there is a **choir of dedicated singers** who prepare and offer a song for worship. If you'd like to be a part of this group, contact our Music Director, Maizy.

Worship Notes (continued)

Children's Choir in Worship – October 8

During Sunday School, our students learn different songs. To celebrate their musical accomplishments, **we are so excited to have them perform and teach us a song they learned** on October 8!

Blessing of the Animals – Oct. 15

Pets are beloved members of our homes. **To honor the special place our pets have in our lives, we will be holding a special service on October 15th at 3:00pm** on the lawn. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly family members - on a leash or in a carrier please - to this brief **outdoor service**. This service is in October to recognize St. Francis of Assisi (feast day Oct 4). Francis was a 13th century saint who taught people about the goodness and holiness of all of God's creation, including the animals.

Reformation Sunday – October 29

October 29 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 remembering reformations of the past and all the ways the church is continuing to reform. To add to the fun, we invite you to wear red to worship!



All Saints Worship – November 5

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 5, we will be remembering all of 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 or write them in the book of remembrances. **All information must be received by the office by Sunday, October 31st.** The red book of remembrances will be available in the Greeting Area beginning October 8th.

Joint Youth-Led Worship – November 12

Our Joint Kids Club and Youth Group with Mars United Presbyterian Church will help curate and lead worship on November 12. **To celebrate this joint ministry, the members of Mars United Presbyterian Church will come to St. John and Pastor Brian will preach.**

Faith Formation for All Ages

Confirmation Classes

To help coordinate across a number of schedules, we will be holding confirmation classes on a regular schedule. **We will meet 9:30-11:30 am on the third Saturday of each month.** We understand that students will have to miss a class or two; students who miss class will be asked to complete makeup work to make sure they are still getting the important information covered in class.

Faith Formation for All Ages (continued)

Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a foundational prayer in our lives as Christians. Many people have it memorized and can recite it without much thought or difficulty. **But what are we really praying for when we say the Lord's Prayer?** Join us as we dive into the different phrases of the Lord's Prayer and the scripture we hear in connection with the prayer and discuss how this prayer impacts our daily decisions and living. **Join us for this series at 7:00pm on Wednesdays, October 11-November 8 or at 6:30pm on Sundays, October 8-November 5.** (The same information will be offered on Sundays and Wednesdays, so feel free to come as it fits your schedule.) Material will build week to week, but **drop-ins are always welcome to any class! No prior knowledge is required. Contact the office if you'd like to receive the weekly information sheets and Zoom links.**

Messy Church – Third Fridays beginning Oct 20



Beginning Friday, October 20th (5:30-7:30p), we will be starting a new ministry opportunity that will give people of all ages a different way to gather, explore, and worship. **Following the model of Messy Church, our time together will include craft and game activities, eating together, and worship that is designed to be accessible to people of all ages and of all levels of connection to church.** We will start this



ministry in October, meeting on the third Friday of each month from 5:30-7:30p for a few months as we gauge interest and response. All are welcome, so be sure to invite neighbors and friends! **If you would like to help with this ministry, contact Pastor Katie.**

Adult Sunday Morning Learning and Fellowship

All adults are welcome to join us during the Faith Formation hour (Sundays, 10:10am-11:10am) to discuss the scripture read during worship and how it applies to our daily lives. **Questions to guide and prompt discussion will be available as well as time to bring your own questions. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the basement.**

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 again October 8 (1-2:30p)!** Meetings are at Mars United Presbyterian (232 Crowe Ave). To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule, please fill out the form at** <https://forms.gle/eQEjU43wXju4Agsk9> or scan the QR code.



Grades 2-5 Kids' Club

Our joint Kids' Club with Mars United Presbyterian (grades 2-5) will have its **first meeting October 8, 1-2:30p at St. John.** We will talk about how **God's message is relevant to their lives**, work together to **serve the community**, and of course play plenty of **games!** **To sign up to receive the group's schedule and updates**, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/YXESKSj6jc9Xiq5A> or scan the QR code.



Serving Others

October, November, December Mission Emphasis – Boaz House

Our fourth quarter mission emphasis is the Boaz House. **The Boaz House is an independent clothing and food ministry** that serves in affiliation with Glade Run Presbyterian Church. The Boaz House serves 20-30 families with pantry food items each month and runs a continuous clothing closet for people from all over, offering as many clothes, coats, and sheets as they need. **There is no limit to who they will serve. They are particularly in need of children's clothing.** To contribute to the Boaz House through our mission emphasis, mark your offering "mission emphasis."

St. John Food Pantry

Maintaining the food pantry is a community effort! Help us to keep it stocked with items with a long shelf life, especially **personal hygiene, cleaning, and paper products**. And be sure **to invite people to make use of the food pantry as they need!** Outdoor pantries can be tricky with the fluctuating weather, so we want to be careful of what we keep in it. **Access to the indoor pantry is every Monday and Wednesday 9a-1p** with additional times available by calling Pastor Katie or the office.

Harvest Street Mission – Nov. 11 and 12

We will be heading back to the North Side to **serve a hot meal and distribute necessary items to approximately 100 people with Harvest Street Mission** on November 12. On November 11, we will be preparing and packaging everything.

There are still a few items that would be great additions. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor or donate an item, please contact Kim R or the church office. **We also provide a meal to go, and we still need fruit and bottled water.**

On November 5 representatives from Harvest Street Mission will come and share with the congregation a little bit about the work that they do before worship.



Quilts for Lutheran World Relief Update

In 1945 Lutheran World Relief started its Quilt Mission in war torn Europe. It is still going strong today as there are people in need all over the world. Hopefully you had an opportunity to see the quilts St John is contributing this year. If you are **interested in making a quilt** please see Cindy Knauff for dimensions. **There are also ways non-sewers can be of help.** Used flat sheets (as long as there are no stains) can be used for backing the quilts. Old blankets (twin or larger) can be used for batting. It takes approximately 7 skeins of the same color embroidery floss to tie the layers together per quilt. The colors most often used for this are black, navy, red, tan, and dark green. Thanks in advance for your support.



God's Work Our Hands Sunday Update

On September 17th, **we packaged 65 homemade and hand decorated bags with much needed school supplies** for Church World Services. Because of your generosity, we had so many school supplies that **we also gave supplies to MHY Family Services and VOICe in Butler.** The outpouring of love shown in the gathering of the items and the packing of the bags is incredible. Thanks to the people who brought in necessary supplies and to the folks who worked throughout the worship service by organizing, compiling, coloring, running, and helping, the day was a wonderful celebration for the ways that our hands can participate in God's work in this world!

Around the Church

Applefest – October 7

Applefest in Mars is always the first Saturday in October. This year, Applefest is **Saturday is October 7, 10a-4p!** This is a **big community event** and a great way for people around town to meet St. John and for St. John to connect with the community. On **Friday, October 6 we will be preparing the baked goods for sale and getting our game and crafts ready.** Then on Saturday, all are invited to come and help! **Hope to see you there!**



Soup Sale

The soup sale is back! **\$10 gets you an entire quart of homemade soup!** The **order form and list of soup options is available in the Greeting Area.** You can also place an order by speaking with any of the Deacons. Contact the office to get in touch with a Deacon if you're unsure who to ask. Soup varieties include chili, vegetable, zuppa Toscana, creamy tomato basil, chicken tortilla, stuffed pepper, wedding, and chicken noodle. **Orders are due by October 8 and soup pickup will be on October 28 at the church.**



Community Garden

The plants have slowed down in their production, though **tomatoes, basil, and peppers are all still harvestable.** But as the temperatures cool, the garden will need to be put to bed. **Stay tuned for how you can help tuck in the garden for a winter slumber.**



Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

On the last Sunday of each month, we have a **coffee hour after worship to celebrate the birthdays and the anniversaries** in the congregation for that month. **If you would like to host a coffee hour** (generally includes getting a cake, making sure there are enough plates/forks/napkins/etc., making the coffee, and cleaning up afterward), please contact the office.

Trunk or Treat – Oct. 31

The **parking lot will be open for anyone who would like to participate in Trunk or Treat this year!** During Mars Trick or Treating (Oct 31, 6-8p), we have cars in the parking lot with varying levels of decorations and costumes as we pass out goodies to the community kids. **All are welcome to come** and enjoy this fun fellowship and outreach event! If you'd like to participate but cannot come to Trunk or Treat, **donations of goodies may be made to be passed out on your behalf.**



Pancake Breakfast – Dec. 2

Mark your calendars now and plan to come **get your fill of pancakes on December 2nd!** Stay tuned for details!



October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Trustees' Meeting 10:15 am	2	3 Elders' Meeting 7 pm Deacon's Meeting	4	5	6	7 Applefest
8 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Youth Group / Kids Club 1 – 2:30 Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 6:30 pm	9	10	11 Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 7 pm	12 Worship Planners 7 pm	13	14 Mars Spooktacular
15 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Blessing of Animals 3pm Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 6:30 pm	16	17 Council Meeting 7 pm	18 Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 7 pm	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due Messy Church 5:30- 7:30	21 Confirmation 9:30 – 11:30
22 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Youth Group / Kids Club 1 – 2:30 Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 6:30 pm	23	24	25 Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 7 pm	26	27 Combined Halloween 7 pm until	28 Soup Pickup @ 12 Homeless Sleepover 11:am
29 Reformation Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Birthday / Anniversary Coffee hour 10:15 am Bible Study – Lord's Prayer 6:30 pm	30	31 Pastor Katie Penn Mar 1:45 pm Mars Trick or Treat				



10/06 Rozlyn Ludloff
10/07 Cheryl Sauers
10/08 Lauren Schuster
10/17 Ruth Bielo
10/19 Jennifer Miller
10/20 Melissa Kramer
10/22 Charles Davidson
10/24 Kimberly Richards
10/27 Denise Julio



10/17 Frederick & Susan Bielo – 36 yrs.
10/20 James & Denise Hager – 44 yrs.
10/22 Charles & Anne Olescyski – 57 yrs.
10/25 Reed & Kimberly Richards – 20 yrs.

October Newsletter

Address service requested

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