

October
2022

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
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420 Beaver Street
Mars, PA 16046

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Church Office: (724) 625-1830
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Pastor Katie's email: pastorkmcneal@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell #: 412-407-3166

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

1 Timothy 4:14

Dear church,

First of all, I'd like to say a very big thank you! There are so many things that happen in and around a church, and we don't always pause to say thank you to all the people who are behind each and everything that happens. I don't dare to try and list each name and each offering here, but know that every offering of your time, talents, and treasures has been appreciated! I am repeatedly blown away by the number of people who have dedicated themselves to the service of the work of the church. By bringing yourselves to worship, by volunteering to help at our many events, by donating goods and money, by using your talents to further the mission and ministry of St. John... there is a place for everybody to be who they are and use their spiritual gifts.

As has been the theme, there is a lot happening with the congregation of St. John in October! Please read through this newsletter and mark your calendars. From celebratory events to faith formation opportunities, from kids and youth activities to community-wide events, there are lots of ways to participate in the life of St. John this month! And I urge you, as you read this newsletter, to prayerfully consider the ways God is calling you to serve in this month and the coming months. We are especially in need of people to help with Sunday morning tasks (including counting the offering this month!) as well as people to serve on our boards and as treasurer and financial secretary in 2023.

We have a deep ongoing need for volunteers in the church. Without our dedicated volunteers, we could not do the work and ministry we, as St. John, have been called to do. If you're looking to be more involved, but you're not sure about how your gifts might fit into the day-to-day workings of St. John, I'd love to chat with you! I know that not everyone is comfortable using the language of spiritual gifts, so if you'd like to learn more about spiritual gifts and exploring your own gifts, let me know!

Peace,

Pastor Katie

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/UC35PpgMPeMgDRNmkyKssxvQ>
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.**" On October 2, we will be welcoming a representative from Always B Smiling to speak in worship as well as with our Sunday School classes. 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/>.

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief Update

Did You know that Lutheran World Relief sends an average of **300,000 quilts** a year to countries in Africa, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia? Since 1945 **these quilts have offered comfort and care to the most vulnerable.** Whether due to war,



hurricanes, or earthquakes a quilt is a warm reminder that someone cares. The quilts that were hanging in the balcony during September are a small piece of that puzzle. After being blessed in worship on September 25, twenty-five quilts will make their way to help someone in need this October. **We are always accepting of people interested in making quilts** but also happy to take donations of old blankets and flat sheets to be used for batting and backing. Please see Cindy Knauff or call the church office if interested.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday Update



On September 11th, we packaged over 50 lunches of hoagies, pasta salad, chips, cookies, and water with thank you cards for the first responders serving the community out of Quality EMS, Mars Police Department, Adams Township Police Department, and the local Fire Department. **The people who received these gifts were so appreciative.** Thanks to the people who brought in necessary supplies 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!**





Mission from Mars Update

The response to the collections for Mission from Mars (now known as Harvest Street Mission) has been inspiring. Thanks to the combined efforts of several organizations, we will be able to supply 75-100 homeless individuals with a number of much needed items on October 9th along with lunch and fellowship. We still need men's underwear and deodorant. **We will be packaging items together for distribution on Saturday, October 8th at 9:00 am.** Please contact Kim Richards (724-316-2263) or Pastor Katie with questions.

Around the Church

Applefest – October 1

Applefest in Mars is always the first Saturday in October. This year, the first **Saturday is October 1, 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, Sept. 30** we will be making haluski and getting **apple baked goods** ready to sell. Then on Saturday, all are invited to come and help! **Hope to see you there!**



Trunk or Treat – October 31

Mark your calendar and plan on filling your car trunk with Halloween decorations and candy for our **Trunk or Treat Event during Mars Trick or Treating!** Costumes are welcome too! **Stay tuned for sign up information!** We will need people to be present during the trick or treating and donations of candy, decorations, and trunk spaces!

Upcoming Volunteer Needs

We tend to think of our church as our building, but the building is nothing without people bringing life and love to St. John. We, the people, are the Church, and it is us, with God's help, that makes it work.

As we near the end of the year, **we have many volunteer positions that need to be filled to keep the operations of St. John running smoothly.**

The nominating committee is busy finding people to **serve on the boards** (Deacons, Elders, and Trustees) as well as a new **Treasurer** and **Financial Secretary**. We also need new members for our **Mission Endowment Committee**.



The vacant spaces on our boards and mission endowment committee and the newly vacant treasurer and financial secretary **positions need to be filled by the end of November** to seamlessly transition into next year.

We can help train and support, so if you're interested, please contact Pastor Katie, members of the nominating committee, or the church office with any questions or expressions of interest. **Without your help, we cannot operate and continue to grow in our ministry and service to one another and the community.** Thank you to all who have faithfully served in these roles! We are grateful for your dedication to the work of St. John.

Thank You!



Many thanks to Matt Claus for sharing his time and talent with us playing the piano

during Maizy's maternity leave! It was a blessing to have his gift of music leading our worship for six weeks in August and September.



A personal thank you from **Pastor Katie** to all those who attended and supported my installation service by volunteering, by serving, and by holding the day in prayer. It warms my heart to look out at a congregation so full of people eager to enter this new chapter of St. John with me! I am so excited for all the ministry we will do together!

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 Reformation, **we celebrate in church on the last Sunday of October by remembering reformation 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 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. **All information must be received by the office by Sunday, October 30th**

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
2-Oct	Nick C	Luca K	Eva K
9-Oct	Anna K	Jules K	Abigail C
16-Oct	Emma N	Luca K	Eva K
23-Oct	Ava N	Olivia C	Nick C
30-Oct	Emma N	Abigail C	Ella N
6-Nov	Nathan K	Ava N	Emma N

Faith Formation for All Ages

Children and Youth Sunday School Update

We have started our Sunday School year off by **hanging our crafts around the rooms**, so be sure to check them out! The youngest class is trying a new curriculum that invites them to **encounter Bible stories through play and curiosity** at their level. The middle class is **learning about the lectionary readings and the church's liturgical calendar**. The oldest youth class is **tackling some difficult questions that come up in their reading about the stories of the life of Christ**.

Adult Sunday School

Join us after worship for Adult Sunday School! We'll listen to the kids practice their song for the month, then meet in the basement to dive more deeply into the texts heard during worship, thinking about how they apply to our daily lives.

Grades 6-12 Youth Group

The Mars Area Youth Group (a joint venture between St. John and Mars United Presbyterian) will be **starting on Sunday, October 2nd from 1:00 to 2:30p at Mars United Presbyterian** (232 Crowe Ave.). For a full schedule of meetings and events, check your email or contact the church office for a copy. All are welcome to join, so invite your friends or other youth in your neighborhood to come check it out!



Grades 2-5 Kids' Club

As a joint effort with Mars United Presbyterian Church, we are so excited to be starting a **Kids' Club for kids in grades 2-5**. Our first meeting will be **Sunday, October 2nd from 1:00 to 2:30p**. We will be meeting in the basement of St. John. For a full schedule of meetings and events, check your email or contact the church office for a copy. All are welcome to join, so invite your friends or other kids in your neighborhood to come check it out!



Rediscovering the Bible

We are beginning a new adult faith formation opportunity on **Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm** in the church basement. We will meet on October 12, 19, and 26 and November 2 and 9. Over the course of these 5 weeks, we will **explore how the Bible came to be, how we encounter the Bible through Lutheran perspectives, and how the Bible guides and forms our faith**. A zoom option will be available during these sessions. No materials necessary and no previous knowledge needed! Come with your questions!

Online Resources

There is a plethora of **resources for individuals to explore their faith and spirituality**. There are countless books, websites, and blogs that will help guide a person on this journey. If you're looking to dive deeper on your own time, **check out the church's website for some places you can get started!** You can also always ask Pastor Katie, she is always happy to offer or find a book suggestion!



The Luther Seal (The Lutheran Rose)

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that **Luther designed to represent his theology**. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works. **Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:**



*First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a **black cross**, which mortifies and causes pain, but it **leaves the heart its natural color**. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a **white rose**. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). **This rose should stand in a sky-blue field**, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. **Around the field of blue is a golden ring** to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

The Five Solas

Over the Reformation, there were **several tenants that distinguished the Reformers from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church**. These tenants were later summarized as "The Five Solas." Sola is a Latin word meaning alone or primary (think solo).

They are **sola scriptura** (Scripture alone), **sola fide** (faith alone), **sola gratia** (grace alone), **solas Christus** (Christ alone), and **soli Deo gloria** (glory to God alone). These five solas capture the core of the gospel as it is filled with grace, centered on Christ, and revealed in the scriptures. They show the glory of God's gracious and merciful way of salvation. We don't often use the phrase in today's church, but the concepts are still at the center of many traditions.

October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School Youth Group 1pm Kids Club 1 pm	3	4 Deacon's Meeting Elder's Meeting 7 pm	5 Worship Planners 7 pm	6	7	1 Applefest 10 - 4
9 Worship 9:00 am Trustee's 10:15 am Sunday School Mission from Mars	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School Youth Group 1pm Kids Club 1 pm	17	18	19	20	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22
23 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School	24	25 Council Meeting 7 pm	26	27	28 Adult Dinner	29
30 125th Anniv Sunday School 9am Worship 10am 125th Luncheon MUP - Halloween Party 1pm	31					



10/06 Rozlyn Ludolff
10/07 Cheryl Sauers
10/17 Ruth Bielo
10/20 Melissa Kramer
10/22 Charles Davidson
10/22 Amy Adams
10/24 Kimberly Richards
10/24 Giovanni Sunseri
10/27 Denise Julio



- 10/10 Robert & Christine Dishong – 24 yrs.
10/17 Frederick & Susan Bielo – 35 yrs.
10/20 James & Denise Hager – 43 yrs.
10/22 Charles & Anne Olescyski – 56 yrs.
10/25 Reed & Kimberly Richards – 19 yrs.

October

Assisting Minister
Dave Knauff

Ushers
Niklewicz Family

Bread Baker
Valerie Cardinal

Counter
TBD
TBD

October Newsletter

Address service requested

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