

November
2025

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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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

Please call to ensure availability before coming to the office.

There is a lot of vocabulary ("church terms") that comes with participating in a fairly traditional church setting. At the top of my head as I write this is "the chancel" and its frequent misnomer, the stage. As people sit in the pews during worship, it's easy to see the front of the worship space as a stage. It's a raised platform. People sit and look at where nearly all of the visual action of the service happens. But if the front of the church is the stage, would that make the congregation the audience? Audiences watch and observe. TV shows with a live studio audience may ask the audience to participate with scripted laughs or claps or "awws," but even then, the audience is a passive part of the show. Their role can just as easily be filled by laugh tracks and recorded sound effects.

But the chancel is not a stage, and the congregation is not an audience. Though much of the service is scripted, the congregation cannot be replaced by recorded responses or sound effects. The worship service relies on the full participation of everyone present. We join our voices in song. We lift our hearts in prayer and thanksgiving. We extend the peace of Christ to one another. The list goes on. In fact, "liturgy," the church word used to describe everything that happens in a worship service (i.e. the words, the songs, the motions), means "work of the people." Whether someone is in the chancel or in the pews, everyone is a full participant in the liturgy.

As an extension of this congregational responsibility to participate for the entirety of the liturgy, we have several roles in any given worship service for which individuals take particular care and responsibility. The ordained clergy are responsible for word and sacrament, but much of the rest of the service is led by representatives of the congregation. We have people preparing the space for worship, unlocking doors, turning lights on, putting paraments on the pulpit and altar, setting up the elements for communion, lighting the candles, etc. We have people who greet people as they walk in the door, inviting each person to be seen and welcomed to fully participate in the liturgy. We have people who read scripture and prayers. We have people collecting the offering and distributing communion. We have people tending to our virtual attendees. And there are certainly more ways that people can take particular responsibility and lead or assist in a part of the service as a representative of the congregation.

On November 9 and 16, as we prepare our spaces and our hearts for Christmas celebrations, we will turn our attention to the ways that we all participate in the work of the people, inviting people to take leadership roles not as a part of a Sunday morning performance, but as a representative of the congregation. You are not being pressured to take any specific role, but you are invited to take these weeks for the opportunity that they are, an opportunity to see with fresh eyes how every person in the sanctuary is a full participant in the liturgy, and how you might be able to fulfill a needed role in this group work.

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 **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
2-Nov	Anna K	Lydia M	Cate S	
9-Nov	Lydia M	Josie W	Ava N	
16-Nov	Ella N	Anna K	Nathan K	Anna K
23-Nov	YOUTH LED WORSHIP			
30-Nov	Ava N	Abby C	Ella N	
7-Dec	Nathan K	Jules K	Eva K	

Adult Worship Leaders

	Greeters	Usher	Assistant Minister	Bread Baker	Counters
2-Nov	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Jen M	Denise H	Valerie C David D
9-Nov	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	N/A	Denise H	Valerie C David D
16-Nov	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	N/A	Denise H	Valerie C David D
23-Nov	YOUTH LED WORSHIP			Denise H	Valerie C David D
30-Nov	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Valerie C David D
7-Dec	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	Denise H	Denise H	Denise H Ruth Ann T

Volunteer Spotlight: Greeters

When you walk into a church, **how you are greeted sets the tone for your entire experience.** Does someone say hello... hand you a bulletin... answer questions about where to find things? Does someone make you feel welcome? These are roles the Greeters have. **It's best to have someone at each entrance looking to welcome people to worship and help everyone know that we are glad that they are here.** Please sign up in the Greeting Area or online to fill this role of hospitality on Sunday mornings.

Worship Notes (continued)

Flowers in Worship

If you would like to **provide flowers for our altar during worship**, please sign up in the Greeting Area. Flowers offer a bright connection with God's creation in our worship space. Sponsors for flowers are responsible for ordering their own flowers. If you need assistance in contacting a florist that often works with the church, contact the office.

Adult Choir

For major festivals (like Reformation and Christmas Eve!), 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.

Reformation Sunday – October 26



October 26 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 2

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 2, we will remember 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.**

Sung Evening Prayer

Following the Wednesday evening dinner and discussion on the titles of Jesus, we will have sung evening prayer in the sanctuary using the Holden Evening Prayer service. The service will begin at approximately 7:15pm and will conclude around 8:00pm. **This quiet, contemplative service offers space to reflect on the themes of Advent as we meditate on the titles of Jesus and how they each help us connect with God as we prepare for Christmas celebrations.**

Joint Youth-Led Worship – November 23

Our Joint Kids Club and Youth Group with Mars United Presbyterian Church will help curate and lead worship on November 17 at 9:00am. **To celebrate this joint ministry, the members of Mars United Presbyterian Church will come to St. John and Pastor Brian will preach.** Youth participants are asked to arrive at the church at 8:00 am to get ready for the service.

Advent Begins – November 30



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 November 24, the last Sunday of the church year. 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 Notes (continued)
Christmas Worship Schedule

As we near the end of the calendar year, we remember the new beginning we have in Christ and we come together to celebrate and reflect on Emmanuel, God with us. At Christmas we celebrate God coming among us in the baby Jesus. On **December 21, there is a Blue Christmas Service** held at Mars United Presbyterian at 7pm for all those who are hurting during the holidays. On **Christmas Eve, December 24th, we celebrate the birth of Jesus with traditional candlelight services** at 3:00pm and 7:30pm. **On Christmas Day, December 25, we will gather for a relaxed and interactive retelling of the story** at 9:00am.

Prayer List Updates

We would like the list of names we lift in prayer as a community each Sunday to be as current as possible. We are therefore asking people to review the prayer lists and let the office know whether the names you have placed on the prayer list should continue to remain on the weekly prayers or if the name can be removed.

Around the Community
Mars Light Up Night – November 29



Mars Borough is once again hosting Light Up Night! This is a great community event to kick off the Holiday season! Light Up Night will include a **Holiday Market** on Pittsburgh Street from 4:00-8:00 pm, **Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** from 4:00 – 7:30 pm, **Tree Lighting** at the Saucer at 5:30 pm, and a **Parade** at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there! For more information, visit marsborough.com/light-up-mars.

Living Nativity – December 12

Mars United Presbyterian Church is once again hosting the Living Nativity and looking forward to the participation of St. John members! **There are going to be lots of live animals joining the performance. The performance will be Friday, December 12.** A rehearsal for participants will be scheduled ahead of time. To help all new participants better understand the performance, all participants are asked to attend the rehearsal. Stay tuned for more information about how you can get involved!

Stewardship
Stewardship Corner

Taken from <https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2025/10/we-are-not-alone-and-its-not-all-up-to-us/>

By Deacon Timothy Siburg

“One of my favorite things about the Reformation is the opportunity it creates to wonder about how the Spirit might be moving, forming, and reforming God’s people. Martin Luther is said to have nailed his *95 Theses* to the Wittenberg church doors and really started the debate which opened the doors for a reformation of the church. In our time, might the Spirit be inviting us to take stock, ponder, and imagine. What are the central claims as God’s people that we need to be clear about today? What are the ways that we see and sense God at work? What are the ways we feel God is inviting us now to serve and respond as stewards of God’s love? These questions might not lead to our own 95 theses, but they might make for fun and deep discernment for disciples and stewards in the faith community.”

Reformation is celebrated in the congregation on the last Sunday in October in remembrance of the traditional date of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517.

Stewardship of Life is a ministry of stewardship resources based at the United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, PA.

Lutherlyn

Advent Retreat – December 5-7

The Advent Retreat offers families an opportunity to spend time together celebrating the advent season for a weekend decorating cookies, singing carols and playing games with your family amidst the wonder of winter at Lutherlyn. The weekend registration fee includes lodging, meals, program, and the supplies for each activity.

Registration deadline is November 24, 2025.

Learn more and register at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/programs/advent-retreat.html>.

Worship at Lutherlyn – December 7

You are invited to worship in Lutherlyn's Baker Chapel. Worship begins at 3:30pm, so it is advised to arrive early to allow time to park and walk to worship. No RSVP is needed for worship.

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.

Around the Synod

Nicene Creed Anniversary Celebration – November 18

The Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania is hosting an ecumenical celebration of the Nicene Creed on Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 pm at the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Pastoral Center (2900 Noblestown Rd, Pittsburgh 15205) Together with leaders from diverse Christian traditions, we will join together in prayer, song, conversation, and fellowship as we commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Register at casp.org/nicea

Family and Caregiver Support Group

Lutheran SeniorLife is hosting a safe, confidential space for loved ones to share experiences, find support, and learn strategies to navigate this important stage of life. The group kicks off on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:00 pm in the Vespers Hall at St. John Specialty Care Building (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars)

Serving Others

Holiday Meal Kits

For many people, holidays are not a source of joy but a source of stress as they wonder how to celebrate the season with little money for a special holiday meal. **Help us help local families in need celebrate Thanksgiving with a special meal by donating to our Holiday Meal Kits! We will also need five people to supply frozen turkeys to be delivered to the recipients.** Last year, we served 5 families for each holiday, offering holiday meal favorites and a gift card to fill their table with whatever traditional foods their family particularly loves. **Families are invited to go shopping on November 23rd after worship.** Our Sunday School, Kids Club, and Youth Group participants loved thinking through what makes their Thanksgiving table special and how they can use the money offered to do the same for other families. **If you know of a family who is in particular need this season, contact Denise H or Pastor Katie.** We will make more meal kits for Christmas.

Serving Others (continued)

Harvest Street Mission – November 30



Each year, a team of volunteers pours love and energy into participating in the ministry of Harvest Street Mission. Harvest Street Mission's goal is to connect communities, grow relationships that inspire change, and love our neighbors as ourselves. They do this through providing a hot meal every Sunday to people who live on the streets, in shelters, or in low-income housing on the North Side of Pittsburgh. Additionally, they collect and distribute gently used clothing, shoes, bedding, and personal care items.

This year, St. John is preparing, providing, and hosting the meal on Sunday, November 30. This includes food preparation on Saturday, November 29 at 9:00 am. Contact Kim R with any questions.

Warm Up Someone's Winter — Sweatshirt & Coat Drive for the Homeless

As the colder months approach, many in our community are facing the harsh weather without basic warm clothing. You can help make a difference. As you switch over your wardrobe, please consider sharing the new or gently used sweatshirts and coats you no longer wear. All sizes are welcome, especially adult Medium-XXL. All donations will go directly to those in need through Harvest Street Mission. **We will collect sweatshirts and coats at the church November 1-23 in the Greeting Area.**



Let's come together to offer warmth, comfort, and compassion to our neighbors this season.
Every sweatshirt and coat counts. Every act of kindness matters.

4th Quarter Mission Emphasis: Butler Hospital The Food Institute

Food insecurity impacts people throughout the community, and food insecurity often leads to a higher prevalence for diseases, obesity, and other measures that are tied to poor health. Food insecurity can happen due to a disruption of food intake because of lack of money or other resources. Neighborhood conditions may affect food insecurity, but food insecurity can happen anywhere. Some people experience food insecurity for just a short time; others are in a chronic state of insecurity. To support this community need, The Food Institute was created to make nutritious meals a reality for more families in the region.

How it works:

- Your doctor provides a referral for the Food Institute.
- Referral includes one monthly visit for four months.
- Each monthly visit lasts about 45 minutes where you will:
 - Receive a nutrition lesson
 - Learn healthy eating on a budget
 - Leave with nutritious food and recipes for up to 10 meals

How you can help:

Make a financial contribution through the church by marking your offering "Mission Emphasis." 100% of funds collected for mission emphasis go directly to the named organization. Stay tuned for other ways that you can support The Food Institute.

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.



Serving Others (continued)

St. John Food Pantry

We have had several new individuals and families stopping by the food pantry. Though they frequently come outside of office hours, we are able to stop and talk with them occasionally. Each time we talk to someone who is utilizing the gift of the little food pantry, they are simply grateful for whatever it is we are able to offer. When we have a variety of food and essentials, we are able to help people find something that particularly brings a smile to their face – their favorite cereal brand or soap fragrance or a snack that they would not have the luxury of purchasing for themselves. We would not be able to have such an offering if it were not for the generosity and care of members of this community. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we do this by keeping the food pantry in good supply, even of thinking of items that might in some circles be considered “treats.” On behalf of everyone who visits the pantry, thank you. Please continue inviting people to make use of the pantry as needed!



Currently, Thursday morning is the most reliable time for access to the indoor food pantry (or times when there is a meeting or service at the church). If you know someone who needs access at another time, Pastor Katie is happy to coordinate a time to open the building for them. (And if anyone wants to brighten their lawns with pink flamingos, they would love to find a new home!)

Around the Church

New Member Conversations

It is always exciting to welcome new members to the congregation. As we welcome new members, we enter a mutual promise with the new members: to share in joys and sorrows, to support one another's lives in Christ, and to nurture one another's gifts and ministries. All of that is a lot easier to do when we take time to get to know one another. New Member Conversations are just that opportunity. In addition to offering some information about the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the culture and vision of St. John and the structure and governance of this congregation, New Member Conversations offer an opportunity for people seeking to join the congregation and people who are already members of the congregation to begin to get to know one another's gifts and dreams, their joys and sorrows. If you are interested in joining the congregation or if this is a ministry to which you feel called as an existing member, contact Pastor Katie. There are **two opportunities for New Member Conversations in November: Thursday, November 13th at 6:00pm and Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00pm**. To help with preparations, RSVPs are requested.

Serving on the Boards

St. John is run by three boards consisting of seven people each, the Deacons, the Elders, and the Trustees. We also have a Mission Endowment Fund Committee, an Audit Committee, a Nominating Committee, and a Mutual Ministry Committee. Each December we elect individuals to serve on each of the boards and committees (the Mutual Ministry Committee is filled by appointment). **We are always in need of new people willing to serve. Each term is 2 years long and individuals are welcome to serve for 1 or 2 terms.** Though there is often some overlap, each board has its primary areas of responsibility. The **Deacons** are responsible for visiting the homebound, overseeing stewardship practices and events, and planning fellowship opportunities. The **Elders** are responsible for Christian education and faith formation, evangelism, and worship life within the congregation. The **Trustees** are responsible for taking care of the physical property of the church and overseeing the finances and budget. The Mission Endowment Committee listens to the community and disburses funds collected as interest on an account set aside for mission support. **If you have interest in serving or know someone you think has gifts for serving in one of these areas, contact the office to be put in contact with a member of the nominating committee** (the committee in charge of preparing the ballot for election to the boards/committee).

Around the Church (continued)

Craft Night: Holiday Wreath – November 14

Wreaths offer a cheerful way to decorate for the holidays, especially when you've made them! You are invited to a wreath-making craft night at the church in the evening on November 14th! There is a small fee to offset the cost of supplies. Contact Dawn S. if you would like to participate.

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 with 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

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

Hospitality 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 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 for a more formal lesson beginning at 10:30a.** If you would like to volunteer to offer hospitality (we have the games covered), contact Denise H or the office.



Nextdoor Profile

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 and being connected to our neighbors, St. John now has a Nextdoor profile.** Save the profile as a favorite, recommend it to neighbors, and connect with what's happening in and through the congregation at nextdoor.com/pages/st-john-lutheran-church-mars-pa/.

Applefest Follow Up

The games and crafts were a hit with community children and youth and gave us a wonderful opportunity to engage with local families. The halushki, baked goods and hot dogs were a hit too! **Thank you to everyone who made this community event a success!** We are always in need of more people to help us get ready on the day before and to help set up, serve, engage, and clean up on the day of. **So go ahead and mark your calendars and consider volunteering to help next year for the first Saturday of October!**

Faith Formation **Confirmation Class**

What does it mean to be a member of a church? Confirmation class is a time for our students in 6th-8th grade to develop deeper scriptural understanding and more robust connection to their faith and identity as a member of the church. **In September and October, the students explored the creed and what we are saying when we recite these ancient words in each worship service.** Class meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30am.

Faith Formation (continued)

Adult Bible Study – Titles of Jesus

Come and explore the varied ways in which Christ comes to us and how traditional titles and imagery from scripture helps us to connect with Jesus in our Christmas preparations.

Throughout the series we will explore titles for Christ that are drawn from the Hebrew Bible, hearing them as an opportunity to enrich our own understanding and connection with Christ and hearing them in the Jewish context in which they originated and in which they are still treasured. The same readings will be used on Wednesday and the following Sunday.

On **Wednesdays (11/5 – 12/17, excluding 11/26)**, we will gather at **6:30pm for a light supper** while we openly discuss scripture readings related to the topic of the evening. At approximately **7:15pm**, **we will move to the sanctuary for sung evening prayer** with the readings of the evening read in worship. Worship will conclude at approximately 8:00pm.

On **Sundays (11/9 – 12/21, excluding 11/30)**, we will have our **traditional Bible Study format beginning at 6:30pm**. We will study the texts that support the various titles of Jesus used in the Advent season with our typical outline of notes.

Because of the different formats of Wednesdays and Sundays, you are welcome to come to one or the other or both as you like! Due to the nature of Wednesday evenings in this series, **only Sundays will be offered via zoom** in addition to in person.

Check out stjohnchurchmars.org/upcomingevents for links for zoom access.

Kids Club/Youth Group – November 2, 16

The Mars Area Youth Group (grades 6-12) and Kids' Club (grades 2-5) are joint ministries supported by Mars United Presbyterian and St. John Lutheran Church. Each group meets approximately twice per month, sometimes meeting in the church buildings (Youth Group at Mars United Presbyterian, Kids Club at St John), sometimes meeting together for joint social and service events.

In November, the two groups will be preparing to lead the worship service on November 23rd during their meetings. **Meetings are 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the respective churches. After each meeting, families are invited to gather for dinner.** On November 2nd, dinner will be at St. John. On November 16th, dinner will be at Mars United Presbyterian. To sign up **to receive updates and the group's schedule**, please fill out the form at stjohnchurchmars.org/childrenyouth.

Messy Church –November 21

“At the heart of every Messy Church gathering are values that shape who we are and how we live our faith together. These values remind us that Messy Church is more than crafts, songs, and meals. **It's**

a way of being church that welcomes all ages, celebrates God's creativity and joy, and centers us in Christ's transforming love.

Rooted in hospitality and shared life, these values guide every Messy Church community around the world.” (messychurchusa.org)



Messy Church at St. John is no different. **We begin by eating dinner together at 6:00pm.** Then after a brief, interactive story-telling, activities are opened for families to explore together at their own pace in a flexible environment. At the end of the evening, we bring our whole selves - our hearts, voices, and bodies to celebration of God's creative goodness in praise songs and prayer, **ending at 8:00pm.**

When you see an apple on a tree, you know it's an apple tree. How do you know when the Spirit is working in and through someone? When you see the fruit of the Spirit growing in them! In November we will learn about the fruits of the Spirit, how the Holy Spirit helps us to live as Christians and just what that looks like.

Faith Formation (continued)

Sunday Faith Formation Hour

Each Sunday, we gather in the lower level of the building for Faith Formation for all ages. Hospitality is offered in the form of goodies and drinks. You are welcome to go downstairs immediately following worship and begin enjoying these goodies. At approximately 10:15am, we begin an all-ages together Bible game to help all of us develop greater familiarity with the Bible. At approximately 10:30am, people are invited to move into age-based groups to explore different topics as outlined below.

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:

November 2 – Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 2:1 – 4:12)

November 9 – David (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

November 16 – Solomon (1 Kings 6)

November 23 – Youth Led Worship Celebration and Holiday Meal Kit Shopping

November 30 – Esther (Esther 4)

December 7 – Jonah (Jonah 3:1-5)

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

After Reformation Sunday, we will begin a new curriculum titled "Rediscovering the Bible." This curriculum will explore how the Bible came to be our Book of Faith and what it means for our lives today. We will discuss what it means to explore the Bible through a Lutheran understanding. We will use the Rediscovering the Bible study through November and December with a few breaks for community events.

November 2 – God's Book for Us

November 9 – The Lutheran Lens in Scripture Reading

November 16 – The Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is Witness to God's Activity across Generations

November 23 – Youth Led Worship Celebration and Holiday Meal Kit Shopping

November 30 – No meeting

December 7 – The New Testament is Correspondence of the Church Learning to be Church

November 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 All Saints Day Worship 9 a Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 10:15a Youth Group/Kids Club 4-5:30p	3	4 Elders' Meeting 7p Trustees Meeting 7 p	5 Bible Study & Midweek Worship 6:30 p	6	7	8 Soup pick-up Deacon's meeting
9 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 10:15a Mutual Ministry 11:30 am Adult Bible Study, 6:30 pm	10	11	12 Bible Study & Midweek Worship 6:30 p	13 New Member Conversation 6 p	14 Craft Night 5 p	15
16 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 10:15a Youth Group/Kids Club 4-5:30p Adult Bible Study, 6:30 pm	17	18 Council Meeting 7p	19 Bible Study & Midweek Worship 6:30 p	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 Messy Church 6:00 pm	22 Confirmation 9:30-11:30 am
23 Youth led Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 10:15a New Member Conversation 4 p Adult Bible Study, 6:30 pm	24 Communion at Penn Mar 1:45pm	25	26	27 Thanksgiving- Office Closed	28	29 Harvest Street Mission Preparation 9:00 am
30 Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Birthday/Anniversary Coffee hour 10:15 am Serving Harvest Street Mission						



11/01 Matthew & Jeannette Claus – 39 yrs.
11/03 Keith & Valerie Cardinal – 24 yrs.
11/05 Charles & Cheryl Davidson – 48 yrs.

11/02 Ariel "Buzz" Kelly
11/05 Tanya Nagel
11/07 Michael Sauers
11/07 David Knauff
11/07 Vern Miller
11/09 Mary Gross
11/17 Cheryl Davidson
11/17 Linda Sabbagh
11/23 Nancy McCormick
11/23 Dan Kramer
11/30 Tim Wach

November Newsletter

Address service requested

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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